

Index 36

MONGOFRA NOU

**GEOGRAPHICAL AND PHYSICAL DATA:**

Municipality: Mahón

Other place names: Mongofra beach or Sabinar de Mongofra.

Associated urban areas: none.

Access: On foot by Camí de Cavalls from Favàritx and diverting at the last minute towards the coast. The majority of people arrive by boat.

Beach location: east.

Surface area of the beach: 3.590m²

Length of the beach: 150m

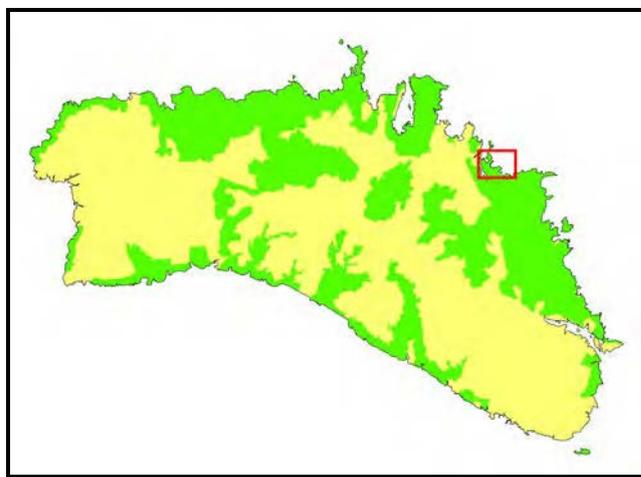
Average width of the beach: 26m

Beach's level of occupation: low, in high season. Large influx of boats.

Geology of the surroundings: Carboniferous material with the presence of beach dune system of Mongofra.

Composition of the sand: of organic carbonated origin (+90%), with a high proportion of fine white grains.

Natural protected area: included in the National Park of S'Albufera des Grau, in the Natural Area of Special Interest Me-6 and in the Nature Network 2000. The marine part is also Natural Park.

**SERVICES AVAILABLE ON THE BEACH:**

CIMe beach ranking: type C beach (natural with no road access).

Distance from car park area: approximately 3.500 m in Favàritx.

Liveguard services: none.

Other services: none.

Altres serveis: no n'hi ha.

SURROUNDINGS AND LANDSCAPE

Mongofra Nou beach is located at the bottom of one of the many sea entrances presented by the coast in the north wind sector. Thanks to the semicircular shape of the cove and its east coast facing exit, this enclave offers good shade to boats even on days with north winds. This beach is formed by the exit of two torrents and is found between two headlands. On the promontory at the far north end of the beach, a west directional dunar system has developed resulting in very spectacular climbing dunes, where you can see remains of fossil dunes attached to the cliffs ([see adjacent photo](#)). In the area of the output of the torrent, various pebbled spaces can be found that show distinguishing erosion due to wind action.



The beach is associated with forests of junipers and pines that provide shade to visitors. It is from this forested area, where the second stream is found, ([see adjacent photo](#)), that you reach the neighbouring beach, s'Enclusa, walking 10 minutes following a road parallel to the coast.



PLANTS AND VEGETATION

On this beach we can see one of the best conserved areas of sandy ground on the island, with regards to the vegetation and significant interest due to the height they reach. As a consequence, we can see many plant species common to the dune systems of the island's north wind.

On the beach, in first line, the pioneering vegetation is under-represented. The cause of this is that the beach area is relatively small in that, a few metres from the shoreline, dunes rise very suddenly to a considerable height. In the first formation of dunes a group of plants stand out, made up of marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*), accompanied by a long list of herbaceous plants like grey bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus cytisoides*), sea holly (*Eryngium maritimum*), knotweed (*Polygonum maritimum*), sea bindweed (*Calystegia soldanella*) (see photo above left), sowthistle (*Reichardia tingitana*), the endemic sea camomile (*Senecio rodriguezii*) or a small umbelliferous that is found less in other beaches due to human over-population: *Pseudorhiza pumila*. This vegetation forms a strip of some ten metres and the sandy area begins to climb the slope that surrounds the creek. As a result of this there is a large change in vegetation. Marram grass disappears and other herbaceous plants, which become more sporadic, are accompanied by small shrubs, some of them endemic: black sage (*Scrophularia ramosissima*) (see photo above right), thymelaeaceae (*Thymelaea velutina*) (see photo above left) or cypress (*Santolina magonica*). In increasing numbers, this vegetation gives way to heather (*Erica multiflora*) rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), as well as the *socarrells* community in places most exposed to the wind such as the kidney vetch (*Anthyllis hystrix*) (see photo below right), thyme (*Teucrium marum* subsp. *spinescens*) or milk vetch (*Astragalus balearicus*).



ANIMALS

The presence of pine and sables so close to the beach offers the opportunity to see, or even hear, the wildlife that inhabits the beach's forest environments. The most easily detected animals of the forest are forest birds, and among them one of the more visible is the wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*).



This is similar to the common pigeon but is much bigger and is easy to tell apart from the white marks on its wings and neck. It can be seen in any forest of the island all year round, where it breeds every spring. Another forest bird is the common turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*). This is smaller than the wood pigeon and can be recognised by a very characteristic black and white coloured spot found on its neck. This is a migratory species and in Menorca we can see it during its breeding and migratory stages. A good example of forest birdlife of Menorca is the common blackbird (*Turdus merula*) (see photo). Males are black with bright yellow pupils and beak and females have browner plumage. It is a sedentary bird that can be seen in abundance throughout the year in forests and farmland with shrub areas.

Carniverous mammals are represented in Menorca's forest wildlife by two species: the weasel (*Mustela nivalis*) and the European pine martin (*Martes martes ssp. minoricensis*). The latter is the biggest land mammal in Menorca and can grow up to 50 cm in head and body length and 25 cm in tail length. It is difficult to view as it tends to hide, but its presence is easily detected due to its habit of leaving its wastes on stones and dry walls, in order to mark its territory.

IN THE SEA

The substance of this cove is mainly sandy. This type of substance is the least attractive from the marine flora and fauna observer's point of view, as the majority of animals that live there are buried in the sand and cannot be seen. Fortunately however, the substance nearest to the edges of the creek is rocky and contains very interesting algae communities with a wide variety of species from *Cystoseira* group. These algae are very vulnerable to different impacts such as pollution and, nowadays, they are disappearing in numerous parts of the Mediterranean.

Also close to the edge, but with more depth, grow both seagrass (*Cymodocea nodosa*), and neptune grass (*Posidonia oceanica*) (see adjacent photo). These plants are better adapted to life in the middle of the ocean as, unlike algae, they have roots, shoots and leaves and they also flower and produce fruits in Autumn, when conditions are favourable.



HISTORY AND PECULIARITIES



Something which stands out on this beach is the presence of a small hut. This is the so-called *Caseta des Senyor de Mongofra* (hut of the Lord of Mongofra), a single construction used by the owners of the property to enjoy the beach (see adjacent photo).