

# Riding in the margins of the Albufera

The area around the stables is on the edge of the Albufera, a very important wildlife reserve, made up of canals, lagoons and drained marsh land, and lying on the edge of the turquoise blue Mediterranean Sea. The landscape is flat and it is a very fertile area where potatoes and rice as well as salad and vegetable crops, have been traditionally grown. Many of the tracks and roadways are fringed with reeds, which often blow in a gentle breeze against the amazing backdrop of the Tramuntana Mountains.

Scented fennel grows abundantly and you will also see bulrushes. White poplars are the most common trees. The area contains a wealth of pond life including 26 varieties of fish as well as water snakes. Bats and small mammals flourish but the area is best known for its birdlife. 61 species of birds breed in the Albufera including all year round residents and summer visitors. A third group of visitor come in the winter to escape extreme cold in more northerly locations.



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The nearest town is Sa Pobla, which has handsome squares and a lively market. In January it boasts the most spectacular of the festivals of San Antoni, where bonfires burn around the town, there are spectacular fireworks and devils engage in a ritual dance, symbolising their conquest by the saint. There is an exuberant night-time festival in June, which celebrates the potato and its place in Mallorcan cuisine.

In the other direction towards the mountains lies Cantonet with its amazing underground caves and on the way, is the old glass factory of Menstralia where you can see coloured and decorative glass being blown by hand and enjoy a fantastic Mallorquine buffet lunch.



*Leave only hoof prints take only memories*