

The legend of the Mar Menor Islands

Do you notice anything strange in these islands? Doesn't the shape of them remind you of something? They are very pointy and they are located in a very strange place, enclosed in the sea... why is that? I will tell you the story of the 5 islands of the Mar Menor so that you can then share it with your friends and remind it to your grandparents.



It turns out that these islands were once underwater volcanoes that ended up emerging to the surface thousands of years ago and are now trapped by La Manga del Mar Menor.

Mayor Island is the largest of them all, rising more than 100 metres above the sea.

Perdiguera Island is the most visited of all and is joined to a smaller islet by a stretch of land. The rest of the islands are very important bird refuges.

Del Sujeto Island is the only one that still preserves a significant volcanic crater. Del Ciervo Island is formed by two old volcanic cones, but they are hardly noticeable and very eroded, and until recently it was artificially connected to the mainland.

The last one, which is the smallest but no less important, is Redonda Island. It is a breeding place for many birds in the area, that find their own heaven

on this island.

I will now share with you one of the most famous legends about these islands, which is the legend of the ghost of Baron de Benifayó. I will share it with you because it is my favourite one. Read carefully.

It turns out that the Baron, a very mysterious and aggressive man, was secluded on this island for fighting a duel with Don Diego Castañeda, back in the 19th century. He liked the island so much that, when his seclusion ended, he built himself a palace, the same one that still currently sits on the island.



The Baron once threw a party and fell in love with a Nordic princess. He married her, but she only loved him because he gave her very nice gifts and presents. The love story ended horribly because the princess didn't love the Baron, so, in an outburst of anger, he sent for his servant to lock the young lady in a tower. The years went by and he profoundly regretted not sharing his love with the princess, finally, at a very old age the Baron died alone in his castle.

The legend tells that now and again you can still see the young princess looking at the sea and that the Baron's soul still lives in the house, missing the princess very much. All this is just a legend of course, I've been out walking many times and I still haven't managed to see any ghosts.

TRUE OR FALSE?

These islands were old underwater volcanoes that emerged thousands of years ago.	T	F
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The largest island is Perdiguera Island.	T	F
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These islands are an important refuge for migrating birds.	T	F
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Del Ciervo Island gets its name because in the past there were many deer living there.	T	F
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Baron de Benifayó was secluded on one of these islands.	T	F
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The Baron ordered to lock up his beloved wife in a tower.	T	F
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The legend tells that you can still see the princess looking at the sea.	T	F
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