NEPTUNE blue trails

Olbia underwater trail

Warning
FRAGILE

Snorkelling

Cultural and natural

Average frequentation
Geographic location
France, Provence Alpes Côte d’Azur, Var, Hyères

Name of the conservation area (or protected area)
Marine area adjacent to Port-Cros National Park

Level of environmental protection
Natura 2000 Hyères bay

Name of the dive site
Olbia underwater trail

Geographic coordinates (reference system)
LAT E 06°07’22.649”
LONG N 43°04’46.841”
Reference system WGS 84
Access to the dive site

By land: from Hyères, in the direction of Carqueiranne (free parking nearby) or bus No. 39 (Almanarre stop). Opposite the Olbia archaeological site, the trail head is located at the sailing club on Almanarre beach.

Site characteristics

Maximum depth: 5 m
Difficulty: Low

Cultural and natural

Information about the managing body

The AREVPAM association studies and promotes Mediterranean heritage. It consists of archaeologists, diving professionals and photographers and participates in studies and underwater archaeological digs for the DRASSM (Department for underwater archaeological research) and Port-Cros National Park. In addition, a large part of its activities is dedicated to educational outreach. It manages two underwater trails: one devoted to the Almanarre archaeological remains at the Olbia site, while the other reconstitutes the Pointe du Bouvet archaeological site.

Contact: the AREVPAM association  http://arevpam.org/
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More information:

The underwater trails booklet  (trail No.3, page 12)
https://fr.calameo.com/read/000318363320c568f95e
To preserve biodiversity IT IS PROHIBITED
• to gather sea urchins from 16 April to 30 November in the department of Var
• to capture or hunt octopus from 1 June to 30 September
• to fish or hunt in the zones reserved for swimming, including the underwater trails
Description of the site of natural interest

The remains of a Roman quay and the wreck of a tartane offer shelter for the young of a wide diversity of species. The biotopes present consist of rocky seabed, sandy seabed and seagrass meadow in depths up to 5 metres.

List of main species

- **Snakelocks anemone** *Anemonia viridis*
- **Damsel fish** *Chromis chromis*
- **Green sponge ball** *Codium bursa*
- **Red sea star** *Echinaster sepositus*
- **Rainbow wrasse** *Coris julis*
- **Ornate wrasse** *Thalassoma pavo*
- **Green wrasse** *Labrus viridis*
- **Black sea urchin** *Arbacia lixula*
- **Neptune grass** *Posidonia oceanica*
- **Common two-banded sea bream** *Diplodus vulgaris*
- **Salema porgy** *Sarpa salpa*
- **Painted comber** *Serranus scriba*
Description of the site of cultural interest

The Olbia underwater trail is located on the remains of a Roman quay and is situated near the wreck of a tartane, which was loaded with blocks of stone that today offer shelter to numerous aquatic species.