



Interreg



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MARITTIMO-IT FR-MARITIME

Fonds européen de développement régional
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NEPTUNE blue trails

LE CIMENTIER, The Cement Barge



**Warning
FRAGILE**



Diving



**Permit
required**



**Cultural and
natural**



**Average
frequentation**

Geographic location

France, Région Sud, Hyères les Palmiers

Name of the conservation area (or protected area)

Heart of Port-Cros National Park

Level of environmental protection

Diving in the underwater hearts of the Port-Cros National Park is subject to authorisation from the Park Director:

<http://www.portcros-parcnational.fr/fr/le-parc-national-de-port-cros/la-reglementation/reglementation-en-mer-port-cros-et-porquerolles>

Name of the dive site

Le Cimentier, the cement barge

Geographic coordinates (reference system)

LAT	N 43°00'429"
LONG	E 06°09'625"
Reference system	EPSG-4326 - WGS 84 system



LOCATION



Access to the dive site by boat, equipped site (buoy)

Site characteristics

Maximum depth **3 - 15 metres**
Difficulty **none**



Cultural and natural

Information about the managing body

Created in 1963, Port-Cros National Park is the oldest marine park in Europe. It manages two onshore core zones, Port-Cros Island and the natural areas of Porquerolles Island, as well as their surrounding offshore zone up to 600 m. Its main missions are the knowledge and protection of natural heritage, reception and environmental outreach, providing support to stakeholders for sustainable development within its partnership zone and the adjacent maritime area.



INFORMATION



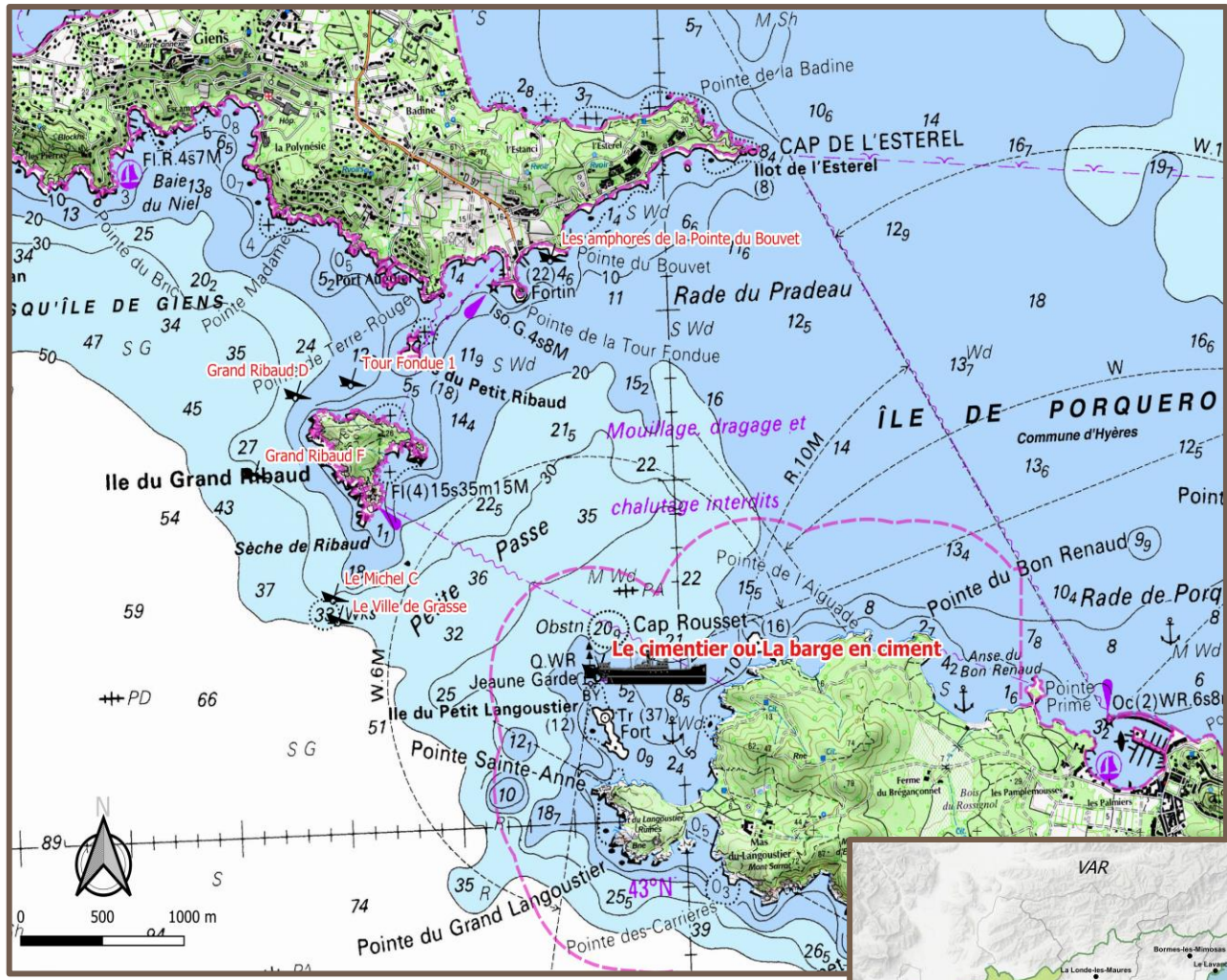
Diving



Permit required

WARNING

Due to the presence of fishing lines, nets, sharp metal parts, and fragile structures that can break without warning, wrecks can be dangerous for divers. Entering a wreck requires skill and specific training and equipment as well as the respect of safety rules.



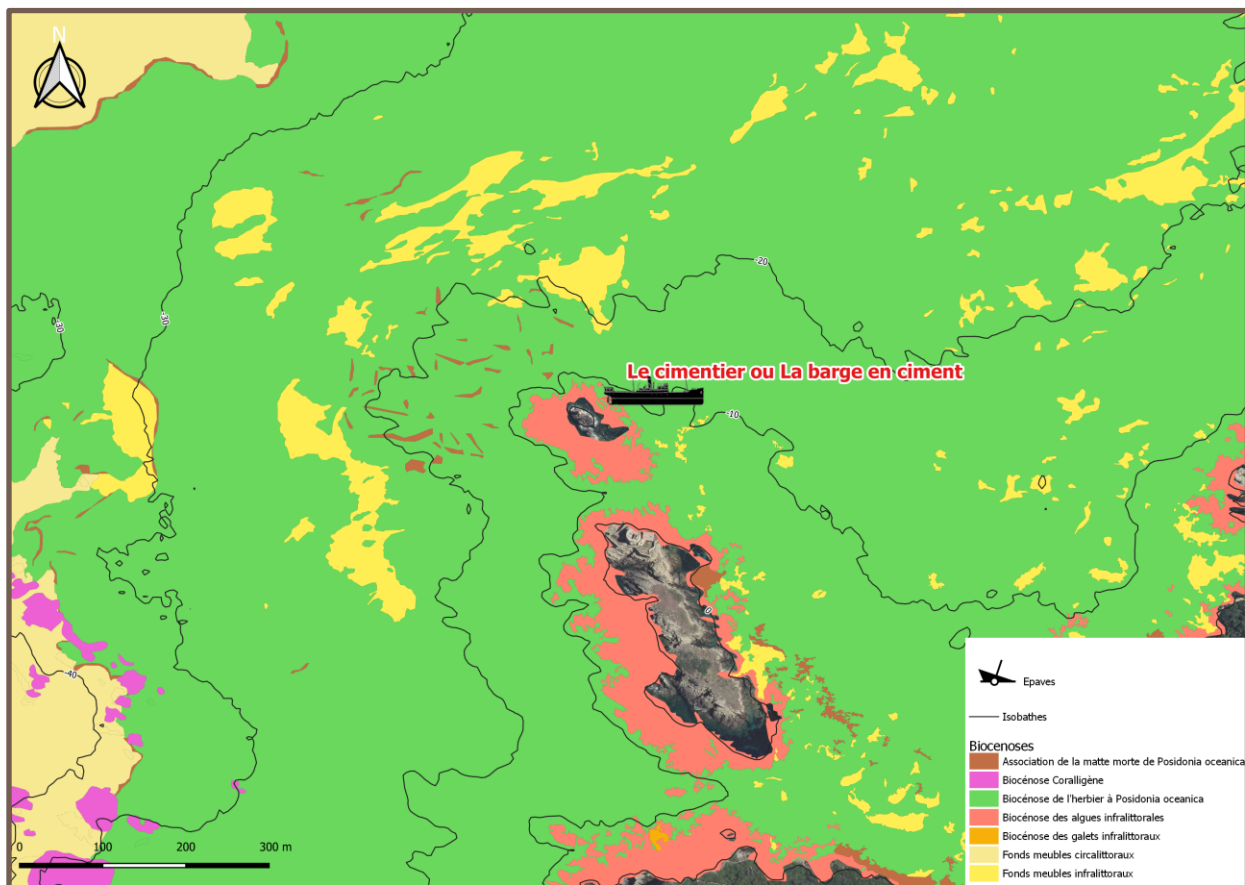
MAP



Warning FRAGILE

Description of the site of natural interest

The wreck is surrounded by a seagrass meadow (*Posidonia oceanica*) and is home to cardinalfish (*Apogon imberbis*), common two-banded sea bream (*Diplodus vulgaris*), rainbow wrasse (*Coris julis*), ornate wrasse (*Thalassoma pavo*) and peacock wrasse (*Symphodus tinca*). Many nudibranchs like the pilgrim hermia (*Cratena peregrina*) also find shelter there.



NATURAL

Area of the main habitats (within a radius of 100 m around the site):

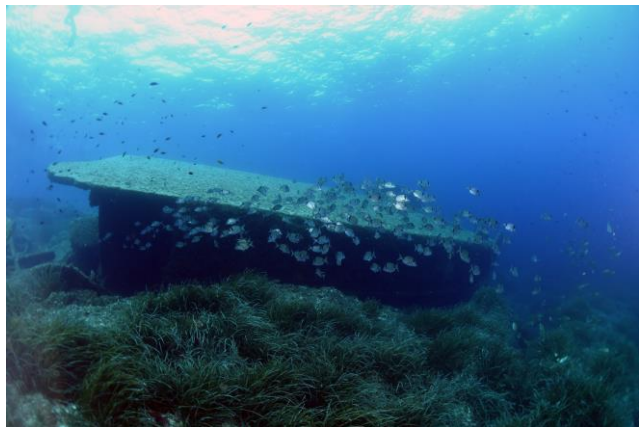
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To protect biodiversity

- Avoid touching underwater flora and fauna
- Do not chase fish
- Do not feed them
- Do not bring anything to the surface
- Beware of uncontrolled flipper movements, check your floatation gear
- Check that your emergency regulator is properly attached to your BCD jacket and in no case allow your equipment to trail behind you as it risks getting caught on flora and fauna.



Pilgrim hermia, *Cratena peregrina* - Parc national de Port-Cros © Hervé COLOMBINI



The cement barge - school of common two-banded sea bream © PNPC - Nicolas BARRAQUE

The cement barge - red sea star on the bow - Parc national de Port-Cros © Dominique BARRAY



Cardinalfish, *Apogon imberbis* - Parc national de Port-Cros © Sandrine RUITTON



Peacock wrasse, *Symphodus tinca* - Parc national de Port-Cros © Sandrine RUITTON

List of main species

- **Cardinalfish** (*Apogon imberbis*)
- **Peacock wrasse** (*Symphodus tinca*)
- **Rainbow wrasse** (*Coris julis*)
- **Ornate wrasse** (*Thalassoma pavo*)
- **Red sea star** (*Echinaster sepositus*)
- **Green wrasse** (*Labrus viridis*)
- **Pilgrim hermia** (*Cratena peregrina*)
- **Neptune grass** (*Posidonia oceanica*)
- **Common two-banded sea bream** (*Diplodus vulgaris*)

Description of the site of cultural interest

The Cement barge is an unidentified 25-metre vessel built of reinforced concrete. The circumstances surrounding its sinking are unknown. Its location parallel to the Jeune Garde rock bar seems to indicate that it was scuttled voluntarily. The cement barge has not been dated with certainty. The bow is still recognisable and many concrete reinforcement rods are visible. The aft and mid parts are better preserved. The stern rail is still in place. The rudder, propellor and shafts have disappeared.

The wreck:

The reasons for the sinking of the cement barge are uncertain and the date is unknown. The generally accepted theory is that it was sunk by the German army during the Second World War in order to break the swell that formed on days of strong Mistral between the NW point of Porquerolles Island and Petit Langoustier Island. The absence of machinery and propellor reinforce this theory.



The Cement Barge, mid-air - mid water - Parc national de Port-Cros © Dominique BARRAY



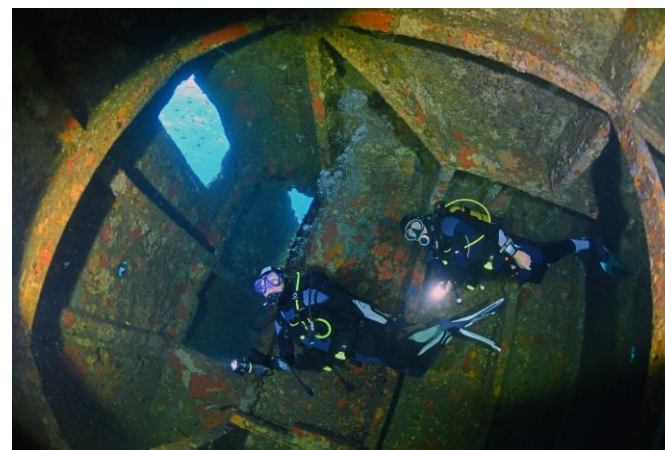
CULTURAL

Photos of underwater cultural heritage

WARNING

Wrecks and all traces of underwater cultural heritage are protected by law. It is prohibited to bring anything to the surface.

The Cement Barge with divers inside - Parc national de Port-Cros © Nicolas BARRAQUE



The Cement Barge, aft view - Parc national de Port-Cros © Nicolas BARRAQUE



The Cement Barge, aft view - Parc national de Port-Cros © Nicolas BARRAQUE



The Cement Barge, overall view - Parc national de Port-Cros © Nicolas BARRAQUE