

Belyounech is a charming little fishing village located 16km north of Fnideq and 7km west of Ceuta. The village is surrounded by green mountains and is dominated by the mass of Jbel Moussa, also called in Spanish "La Mujer Muerta" because of its particular shape reminiscent of the grace and form of a woman lying down.



La Mujer Muerta

The history of Belyounech goes back to the Antiquity, whose legends say that the ancients considered the mountain of Jbel Moussa as the column of Hercules of the African side of Gibraltar. Belyounech is also and above all the last beach of northern Morocco and one of the most beautiful of the Mediterranean coast. Its fine golden sand and turquoise water seduce all visitors. The whiteness of the surrounding mountains, the greenery, the turquoise waters. This mixture of colors gives it a special charm, not to mention the fresh and pure air.

There are two small, quiet beaches near the Fabrica (the old whale oil processing plant). The Fabrica has become a symbol of the village of Belyounech, its ruins form a special scenery together with the cliff.

In Belyounech, women fishermen have set up the first women's artisanal fishing cooperative in Morocco. The cooperative was born in March 2018 to give women all the training they need to fish safely and professionally. Being able to work at sea is really important for these women, they feel empowered by their work and ambition to change the perceptions of a profession dominated by men.



Managed landing point

Belyounech forms the southern limit of the Strait of Gibraltar and occupies a very strategic position as it represents the migration corridor of loggerheads and leatherback turtles between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

The marine area of the Site of Biological and Ecological Interest (SBEI) of Jbel Moussa, is characterized by a good environmental quality reflected by the presence of many bioindicator species and highly sensitive communities such as the coralligenous, important area for reproduction and recruitment of protected or overexploited species such as red coral. This gives the site a remarkable ecological value and makes it a sensitive site of interest for conservation in the Mediterranean.

In addition, the site is located between two areas of great human influence, namely the city of Sebta and the port of Tangier Med. It includes diverse habitats and is located near areas with a more degraded environment. Therefore, it becomes an excellent candidate to be designated as a Marine Protected Area (MPA). The designation of the marine portion of Jbel Moussa as an MPA will connect populations along the North African coast of the Alboran Sea. This will create a network that could be managed regionally and could include already protected areas such as parts of the city of Sebta, the island of Alboran.

The area of the protected area of Jbel Moussa offers many opportunities for the exercise of tourist activities. This includes mountain tourism (hiking and picnics), summering and visiting the beaches, scuba diving, visiting historical sites and tasting local products, especially those of fishing.