

The Natural Parks Network

The Natural Parks Network of Barcelona Provincial Council is made up of fourteen protected natural spaces with high landscape, ecological and cultural value.

- It guarantees a territorial and environmental balance for the municipalities in its geographical area.
- It covers 102,772.5 hectares spread over 103 municipalities. These municipalities account for 22% of the territory within the boundaries of Barcelona and 70% of the population of Catalonia.
- It plans and manages the natural, fluvial and agricultural spaces by means of special plans drawn up with the participation of all the actors involved.
- It protects the natural, agricultural, forest, cultural and landscape values of each park.
- It advocates a balance between the preservation of the parks and the socio-economic development of the population.
- It carries out programmes and educational and environmental awareness campaigns for schools and citizens as a whole.
- It promotes the orderly public use of natural and cultural heritage and sustainable tourism throughout its sphere of influence.

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Paper from environment-friendly sources



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**Diputació
Barcelona**

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“Culture, like humanity, is the result of biological evolution, which is inextricably linked to nature. Maintaining the integrity of ecosystems benefits humanity, animals and biodiversity.”

These are the words of the ecologist Jaume Terrades, which make us understand that humans are also nature.

In the late 19th century, a few years after the creation of the first national park in the world (Yellowstone, in the United States), the first voices began to be heard in Catalonia. These, like so many other movements stemming from the cultural and political renaissance at the time, demanded the protection of nature in our country.

Barcelona Provincial Council, the heir to the initiatives of the Commonwealth of Catalonia (1914-1924), was a pioneering body in this field. One good example was the initial protection of the Montseny massif in 1928; this was an initiative that wasn't resumed until the nineteen seventies, when the Provincial Council promoted the creation of different protected areas by means of the urban planning legislation of the time and created an administrative body to manage them. Thus, in 1972, Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac became the first massif to be declared a natural park in Catalonia and Spain as a whole. Since then, there have been more and more declarations of protected areas, which now form the Natural Parks Network comprising fourteen spaces in co-existence with the other parks in Catalonia.

Living and evolving spaces

You'll find constant evidence of the footprint and evolution of humanity everywhere.

The landscape everywhere is the result of the work of generations of men and women who have transformed it into what we can currently find.

Protected natural areas don't hinder their evolution, they accompany it. They're inhabited and dynamic places in constant evolution. They also bear witness to the traditions and activities of their inhabitants, who have always been able to maintain the balance between economic development and the conservation and protection of a landscape that's highly valued in social terms.



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A display of diversity

Fourteen protected areas; each place and time of year, a particular universe.

Nature and culture deploy their different charms everywhere, in every season of the year.

From the dry slopes of El Garraf, with its sea-level limestone cliffs, to the wetter corners of the Montnegre and Guillerries streams, where you'll find exuberant and delicate fauna and vegetation. From the peaks and ridges of El Montseny, lashed by the wind and snow, to the canals, monoliths and conglomerates of Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac, the parks and natural areas of the Natural Parks Network constitute a veritable catalogue of life and culture of extraordinary variety and richness.

Castles and farmhouses, shrines and springs, limestone and tar kilns, ice wells and snowdrifts, dry stone walls and vine huts, parties and gatherings and much more. They offer an excellent example of the centuries-old dialogue between human beings and the environment that has left its traces in the diversity of the landscapes of these fourteen natural areas.



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Discover to find yourself

Without disturbing the environment, we go in search of that hidden spot that will captivate us.

Nature demands respect. The best way of approaching it is in silence, paying constant attention.

Nature and history lovers, sportswomen and sportsmen, families and anyone who is curious will find trails and paths allowing them to make their own discoveries. Whether they be new places or ones v returning to, you'll always be able to find one where you can experience all the feelings that the nature all around you inspires. Nature within everyone's reach, only asking you to take care of it and respect it.

More than two hundred signposted itineraries throughout the Natural Parks Network will help you to discover the unique heritage and highly diverse flora and fauna and take in the breathtaking views.

Make the most of them

Whether you want to go on a guided walk or attend a cultural event, you'll find a schedule packed with activities for all kinds of audiences.

To find out what needs to be understood and what can be done, the Natural Parks Network provides its users with a wide range of programmes, services and facilities.

The Natural Parks Network has strategically located information and documentation centres, signposted itineraries and guided routes, museums and temporary exhibitions, educational and cultural facilities, recreational and camping areas, hostels, rural accommodation units, publications and audiovisuals, as well as courses, workshops and environmental stays, enabling visitors to enjoy, learn about and respect the natural environment.

Follow us on the website and social media to keep track of all the experiences and activities that the parks have to offer.

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1

Castell de Montesquiu Park

The journey into the past begins when you cross the boundaries of the castle, surrounded by a magnificent mountain landscape.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1986
Protected area: 546 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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With a story that begins in the 10TH century, the fortified castle lies in the centre of this space surrounded by oak and red pine trees. It hosts guided tours and school activities that will take you on a trip through a thousand years of history.

2

Guilleries-Savassona Natural Area

Cliffs with bare rock and far-reaching forests impose themselves on an impressive and exuberant landscape.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1998
Protected area: 8,376 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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It's the force of nature that prevails in this place, although the rich human heritage to be found here is also eye-catching. Farmhouses, castles, shrines, churches and monasteries compete to attract the attention of overwhelmed travellers.

3

El Montseny Natural Park and Biosphere Reserve

Fresh and lavish nature; a million places where you'll find a welcome break, inspiration or, quite simply, peace of mind.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1977
Protected area: 31,064 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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Declared universal heritage, this great mosaic of Mediterranean and Central European landscapes has illuminated the minds of the country's brightest artists and scientists over the years.

4

Sant Miquel del Fai

Natural and cultural heritage go hand in hand in this privileged environment boasting more than a thousand years of history.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 2017
Protected area: 70.5 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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Sant Miquel del Fai, in the Cingles de Bertí Natural Area, is a monumental site declared a cultural asset of national interest where the water has traced a unique landscape and the weight of history has left its fascinating imprint.

5

Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac Natural Park

The monastery church, dating back to the 11TH century, recalls a mediaeval past when it stood in the middle of the area around it.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1972
Protected area: 13,694 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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Solid and striking in appearance. A huge bare fortress outlined on a backdrop of pine and oak forests. Its Romanesque-style monastery gazes towards the horizon of time like a stone giant.

6

El Montnegre i el Corredor Park

Lying beside the sea and further inland, under the shade of dense forests with remarkable biodiversity.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1989
Protected area: 15,010 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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Neolithic dolmens, Iberian remains and mediaeval churches stretch over a landscape surrounded by crops, forests and farmhouses. The terrain favours attractive landscapes and a rich natural heritage.



7

Serralada Litoral Park

Forests and fields beside the sea. Mediterranean vegetation in a natural area that often conceals springs and dolmens.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1992
Surface area of natural interest: 7,408 ha

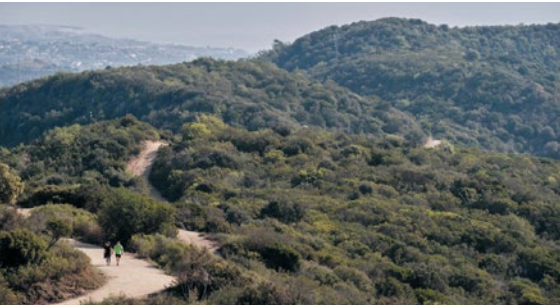
FURTHER INFORMATION
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The mild climate and its privileged location, between the sea and further inland were well-known in remote times. Numerous rich constructions such as dolmens, castles and farmhouses have been and remain permanent witnesses of the above.

8

Serralada de Marina Park

A protected natural space surrounded by civilisation, where the human landscape climbs the mountains among Mediterranean environments.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1996
Protected area: 2,086 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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Despite the human pressure, the park preserves its characteristic fauna and vegetation. Leisure and education form the most beneficial part of a place that has succeeded in making nature compatible with the historical heritage over the years.

9

Besòs River Park

Water, leisure and nature in one of the most important green spaces in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1999
Protected area: 115 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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Well-connected and easily accessible, its privileged location offers the public the chance to enjoy a landscape with Mediterranean, aquatic and brackish vegetation that's suitable for wildlife, inviting birds to stop during their migration.

11

El Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park

A fertile and high-quality area that feeds us. First-rate heritage capable of preserving and promoting agricultural uses.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1998
Protected area: 3,348 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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Located in the lower valley and the delta of the Llobregat river, the agricultural park and its land are essential for the supply of food to the surrounding towns, with local produce that reduces the ecological footprint and provides healthy food.

12

El Garraf Park

With a dry and wild appearance, its rock-strewn landscape climbs up from the shore inland.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1986
Protected area: 12,377 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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The rocks have created an exotic landscape here. Chasms, sinkholes and limestone pavements can be found beneath a particular vegetation dominated by the palmetto. The small towns that lie inland contain vine huts and old farmhouses.

13

Olèrdola Park

Iberians, Romans and mediaeval peoples have left their mark on this landscape featuring crops and forests.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1992
Protected area: 608 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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Olèrdola is a natural lookout point crowned by a monumental site enclosed by a wall built by the different peoples who have inhabited it. On the peak stands the Church of Sant Miquel, whose main body has been documented since the 12TH century.

14

El Foix Park

Around the marshes of El Foix you'll find valuable cultural heritage within a rich mosaic of different environments.



MAIN DATA
Year of creation: 1993
Protected area: 3,157 ha

FURTHER INFORMATION
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One of the few wetlands in the county of El Penedès. It was of great strategic importance during the Middle Ages, as demonstrated by the great architectural legacy materialised in the castles of Penyafort and Castellet.