

The Natural Parks Network

Ensuring the territorial and environmental balance of the 100 municipalities within its geographical scope.

Barcelona Provincial Council's Natural Parks Network consists of 12 protected natural areas of significant scenic, ecological and cultural value.

It is comprised of 102,587 ha, spread out across 100 municipalities. These municipalities represent 22% of Barcelona province's territory and are home to 70% of the population of Catalonia.

The planning and management of the natural and agricultural areas is conducted through special plans drawn up with the participation of all the parties involved.

The Network protects the natural, agricultural, forestry, cultural and scenic values of each park.

It works towards achieving a balance between the preservation of the parks and the economic development of the area.

It also promotes environmental education and the public use of natural and cultural heritage.

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English

Parc Natural del Montseny

Reserva de la Biosfera

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MONT SENY
Park app.

EUROPARC
Turisme Sostenible en Espais Protegits

QUALITAT TURÍSTICA

40 anys 1978-2018 Reserva de la Biosfera Montseny

MONT SENY RESERVA DE LA BIOSFERA



Diputació
Barcelona

Àrea de Territori
i Sostenibilitat



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Diputació
Barcelona

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Diputació de Girona



Universal Natural Heritage

Over time, El Montseny has inspired scientists, artists and intellectuals.

Man's relationship with the area has left behind an internationally recognisable landscape.

El Montseny is situated in the Catalan Pre-coastal mountain range, between the territories of Barcelona and Girona, and boasts over 18 municipalities spread across three regions (Osona, La Selva and El Vallès Oriental).

The local population and the economic activities that are developed in the massif led to the area of the El Montseny Biosphere Reserve being expanded in 2014, up to 50,166 ha. The territory is home to a population of 51,760 inhabitants. Without a doubt, this is one of the biggest management challenges for the future.

Extraordinary Biodiversity

Three ecosystems coexist in El Montseny: the Atlantic, the Eurosiberian and the Mediterranean.

This array of habitats makes for a massif of great ecological importance, providing a home to such remarkable endemic species such as the Calotriton arnoldi.

Likewise, the massif is divided into three large mountainous subunits:

to the south, the crest line of El Turó de l'Home (1,706 m) and Les Agudes (1,705 m); to the north, El Matagalls (1,697 m), and, to the west, the Pla de la Calma plain (Puig Drau hill 1,344 m). Its great altitude and proximity to the sea means El Montseny is home to vegetation typical of the Mediterranean in the lower areas (holm-oak groves, cork oak groves and pine forest); of rainy middle mountains (mountain holm-oak groves and oak woods); and of Central European environments at over 1,000 m (beech forests and fir woods) and sub-alpine habitats at the summits (scrubs and high meadows).

In terms of fauna, it is characterised by the existence of species typical of Mediterranean climates (the wild boar, the fox, the genet, the goshawk, etc.) and others more typical of Central European areas (the hare, the dormouse, the common frog and the Calotriton arnoldi, Catalonia's only endemic vertebrate species).

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From the Prehistoric to the Present

Known everywhere for the beauty of its landscape, the first settlements in El Montseny date back to prehistoric times.

Testament to this is the discovery of stone axes and knives in Aiguafreda, El Brull, El Montseny and Sant Marçal, the megaliths of the Serra de l'Arca and Les Pinedes and the Estelada stone of the Pla de la Calma plain.

Later, during the Iberian period, the hills began to be occupied in a more stable manner, as demonstrated by the Iberian fortification on the hill of El Montgròs, the Iberian archaeological site of El Puig del Castell de Samalús and the fortified settlements of Montclús. The Romans, however, preferred to settle on the plains.

In the Middle Ages, the exploitation of natural resources intensified and it was during this period that most of the farmhouses were built.

The church of Sant Pere Desplà with its pre-Romanesque paintings and the parish churches of El Montseny, El Brull, La Móra and Sant Marçal, among others, are of particular note. You will also find the castles of Montsoriu (an impressive example of Gothic military architecture), Montclús, Fluvia, El Brull and Cruilles, the fortified farmhouses of El Bellver and La Sala, and ensembles such as that of Tagamanent and Sant Segimon.

Making the Most Out of It

Whether you choose to take an improvised stroll or you prefer a longer stay full of programmed activities, it's easy to make good use of the park.

The park has on offer a great network of facilities and programmes that allow you to get to know the park better and to enjoy everything that is available to do.

The El Montseny Natural Park boasts two documentation centres and various strategically located information centres and points distributed throughout the park, in addition to numerous signed trails, guided walks, inclusive dramatised routes, pedagogical and cultural facilities, nature schools, camping and recreational areas, accommodation, audiovisuals, permanent exhibitions, travelling exhibitions and informative publications.

Workshops and environmental education activities and cultural and leisure programmes are also organised, such as *Viu el parc* (Live the Park) and *Poesia als parcs. Lletres i paisatges* (Poetry in the Parks. Words and Landscapes) and the school programmes *Coneguem els nostres parcs* (Let's Get to Know our Parks) and *Montseny a l'escola* (Montseny in Schools); a wide range of things to do for discovering and enjoying nature, always in a respectful manner.

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1 Aiguafreda de Dalt

A place of symbolic importance and the region's historical birthplace.



OBSERVATIONS:
Catalogued as a Local Cultural Heritage Site, this group of monuments is the settlement's birthplace. It boasts architectural elements and heritage from the 7th to 18th centuries. Funerary remains from the 5th century were recently discovered and it is one of the points on the signed PR-C 200 itinerary.

2 Gualba Stream

A fairytale stream, the stuff of legends.



OBSERVATIONS:
Along its way the stream forms beautiful pools and waterfalls (such as the lovely Gualba falls), a source of inspiration that goes beyond legend.

3 Montsoriu Castle

The most important Gothic fortress in Catalonia.



OBSERVATIONS:
The building, with a distinct military appearance, is comprised of three walled enclosures and a keep from the 10th century.

4 Sante Fe Valley

A natural place of refuge for beech forests, fir woods and marshes.



OBSERVATIONS:
It is also home to an information centre with an exhibition and a film about the park, as well as a recreational area.

5 Tagamanent Ethnological Park

A witness to rural life in the middle of the 19th century.



OBSERVATIONS:
From Aiguafreda, you can take the GR 2 to Collet de Sant Martí before arriving at the Tagamanent Ethnological Park.

On the westernmost side of the Pla de la Calma plain, the park is home to the group of monuments of the Tagamanent hill (with the Romanesque church of Santa Maria at the summit), the L'Agustí House Museum –a farmhouse that offers guided tours– and the El Bellver farmhouse, a restaurant and park information point.

7 Sant Marçal

A Romanesque church from the 11th century and the source of the Tordera river.



OBSERVATIONS:
The Table of the Three Bishops is found at the foot of the cross, situated at the point where the dioceses of Vic, Arbúcies and Sant Celoni meet.

At 1,100 m altitude, Sant Marçal is not just an architectural ensemble comprised of a temple and an ancient Benedictine monastery, but is also the starting point for hikes to El Matagalls and Les Agudes. At 300 m, you will find the Bona spring, the point at which the Tordera river begins, before it finally flows into the Mediterranean between Blanes and Malgrat de Mar.

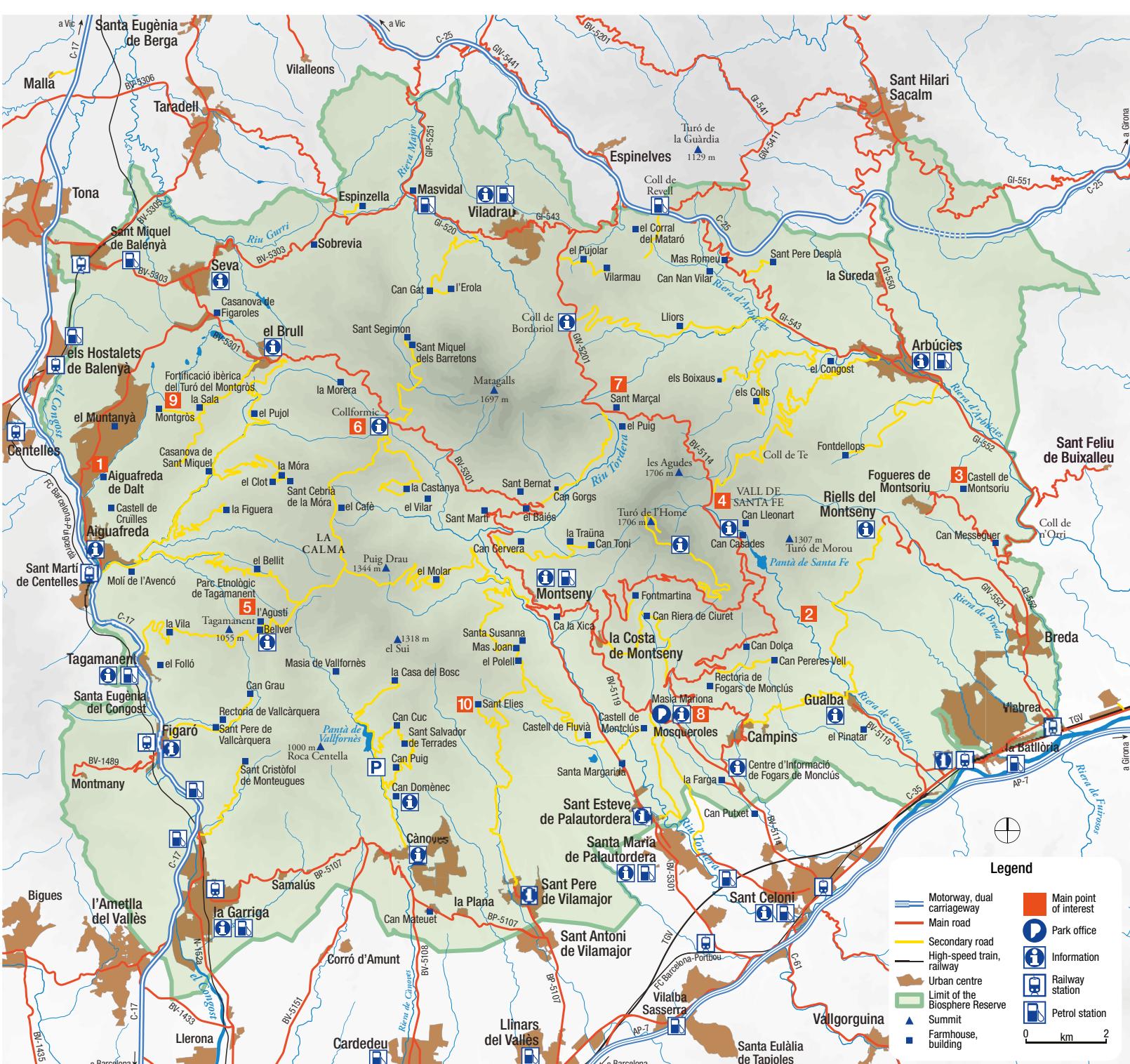
9 The Iberian Fortification of the Hill of El Montgròs

One of the most noteworthy Iberian settlements in Catalonia.



OBSERVATIONS:
It is part of the Route of the Iberians of the Archaeological Museum of Catalonia and guided tours are offered from the El Brull Information Centre.

South-east of El Brull, we find the Iberian fortification of the hill of El Montgròs with a magnificent defensive rampart from 5th century B.C. This strategic settlement built by the Ausetani Iberians guaranteed control of the Plain of Vic. It was occupied from the Bronze Age until the Medieval period.



6 Collformic

The El Montseny Natural Park viewpoint.



OBSERVATIONS:
With El Montseny, El Vallès Oriental and Osona at its feet, it is the main viewpoint in the area.

Collformic, in El Brull, situated at 1,145 m altitude, is characterised by its intense green grassy landscape and its spectacular panoramas. Many excursions leave from here, such as the trail up to the Tagamanent hill via the Pla de la Calma plain, or the GR 5-2 itinerary, which heads for El Matagalls, and the SL-C 85, which descends to El Brull.

8 Masia Mariona

A farmhouse steeped in history and the headquarters of the Patxot Universe.



OBSERVATIONS:
The farmhouse was built between 1926 and 1931, under the direction of the architect Josep Danés i Torras, as a summer house for the Patxot family.

Masia Mariona is the headquarters for the exhibition on the scientific work and patronage of Rafael Patxot: The Study on the Catalan Farmhouse, The Popular Songs of Catalonia and his relationship with hiking, meteorology and astronomy. It also houses another park office and an adapted itinerary.

10 Sant Elies

A charming hermitage with views of El Montnegre, Collserola and Montserrat.



OBSERVATIONS:
It is one of the points through which the PR-C 139 Pi Novell trail, which goes from Sant Antoni de Vilamajor to the Pla de la Calma plain, passes.

The small hermitage of Sant Elies stands majestic at 1,000 m altitude at the summit of the hill of the same name. It has a crowned nave with a barrel vault, a bell gable and a small apse. Every 25 April, the Feast of Saint Mark is honoured with a mass, an offering of bread and a communal meal.

Access

BY ROAD

AP-7 (Mediterranean motorway Sant Celoni Exit).
C-17 (Barcelona-Vic-Puigcerdà).
C-25 (Transversal arterial road: Girona-Vic-Lleida).

BY BUS

Barcelona Bus. Tel.: (+34) 902 130 014
Stops in Aiguafreda, Cànoves i Samalús, Figaró, La Garriga, Tagamanent, Gualba, Sant Celoni, Campins, Fogars de Montclús, Santa Fe, Santa Maria de Palautordera, Sant Esteve de Palautordera and Viladrau.

Hispano-Hilariense. Tel.: (+34) 972 245 012
Stops in Arbúcies, Breda, Riells i Viabrea and Sant Feliu de Buixalleu.

mobilat.gencat.cat

SUBURBAN RAILWAY SERVICES

Renfe. Tel.: (+34) 902 240 202
R2 Nord line (Airport - Macanet-Massanes). Stops in Palautordera, Sant Celoni, Guàlba, Riells and Viabrea-Breda.

R3 line (L'Hospitalet de Llobregat - Puigcerdà via Vic). Stops in La Garriga, Figaró, Sant Martí de Centelles, Centelles, Balenyà-els Hostalets and Balenyà-Tona-Seva.

Facilities

PARK OFFICE

Masia Mariona
Carretera BV-5119, km 2.5. Mosqueroles 08470 Fogars de Montclús
Tel.: (+34) 938 475 102
Email: p.montseny@diba.cat

Can Leonart Nature School

Tel.: (+34) 938 475 051 | (+34) 600 445 485

La Traïna Nature School

Tel.: (+34) 938 473 059 | (+34) 934 744 678

Rectoria de Vallcarquera Nature School

Tel.: (+34) 938 429 361

Montseny Space (PI Viladrau)

Tel.: (+34) 938 484 035

The Iberian Fortification of Montgròs

Tel.: (+34) 938 840 692

Granollers Museum of Natural Sciences (Documentation Centre)

Tel.: (+34) 938 709 651

Montseny Ethnological Museum. La Gabella (PI Arbúcies and Documentation Centre)

Tel.: (+34) 972 860 908

Tagamanent Ethnological Park. L'Agustí Museum House. El Bellver Restaurant

Tel.: (+34) 937 445 082

Casanova de Sant Miquel Youth Hostel

Forest trail from Aiguafreda to El Brull (l'Avencó stream), 4 km from Aiguafreda

La Morena Rural Tourism

Masia La Morena. Ctra. BV-5301, km 30.5 (El Brull)

Tel.: (+34) 938 840 477 | (+34) 616 103 757

You can consult the opening times and services offered by the park facilities at:

parcs.diba.cat/web/montseny