

# 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 comprises 102,587 ha, spread out across 100 municipalities. These municipalities represent 22% of Barcelona province territory and are home to 70% of the population of Catalonia.

The planning and management of the natural and agricultural areas are 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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## An Ancient yet Alive Land

Surrounded by large urban centres, the park plays a fundamental role as a green, educational and leisure space within the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.

*In spite of human pressure, you will be able to find fauna and vegetation of great interest and rich historical heritage in which the Iberian settlements, hermitages, monasteries and farmhouses are of particular note.*

Situated in the Litoral mountain range, Serralada de Marina Park, with a protected surface area of 2,086 ha, is bordered to the east by the Besòs river and the Serra de Collserola Natural Park and to the north-east by Serralada Litoral Park.

It falls between the regions of El Barcelonès, El Maresme, El Vallès Oriental and El Vallès Occidental and its strategic position, besides one of the most densely populated areas of the metropolitan area of Barcelona, makes the park a key piece in the territorial organisation of the area, because of both its natural and historical value.

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## Parc de la Serralada de Marina

English



# Between the Mediterranean and El Vallès

The differences in relief and orientation result in a notable wealth of species and a wide range of natural systems.

*The El Vallès slopes are home to formations native to very damp areas such as oak and holm oak groves. On the sunny slopes, you can find bushy and herbaceous vegetation, chiefly stone pine.*

In this regard, interesting formations stand out for their rarity, vulnerability and singularity, such as the meadows of thatching grass and the scrub, garrigue and maquis, all of great floristic and faunistic diversity. Riparian forests and chaste tree scrub make up a network of biological connectors.

In terms of fauna, where shrub formations predominate, you'll find species native to open spaces, some quite rare in Catalonia, including nesting birds and trans-Saharan migratory birds such as the black-eared wheatear, the orphean warbler, the woodchat shrike and the tawny pipit. The park is also an important stop-off point on the migratory route of birds of prey such as the honey buzzard and Eleonora's falcon.

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## A Human Footprint

The park bears witness to the history of the settlements of Catalonia.

*A figurative mosaic of Iberian sites, impressive monasteries and delightful hermitages, not forgetting the numerous fountains.*

From a bird's eye view, the Iberian settlers from Puig Castellar, Les Maleses hill and En Boscà hill lived alongside unique architectonic elements such as the Montalegre charterhouse, the Sant Jeroni de la Murtra monastery, the Sant Pere de Reixac church and the Sant Climent and Sant Onofre hermitages.

The fountains have also traditionally been spaces of importance for the community. Those found scattered around the park will allow you to enjoy moments of calm in a fresh environment. Among the many fountains, the Tort, Alba, Alzina, Amigó, Caçadors and Avellaners are of particular note.



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## The Environment and Life

Since ancient times, mountain settlers have exploited the resources that nature offers them.

*Although public use of the forests and the social and protective function of the natural environment predominates, economical activities are still quite diversified.*

240 ha of park area are marked as agricultural, half of which are vineyards and, the rest, vegetable gardens, fodder and cereal fields. Primary exploitation of the forests is very scarce and livestock is an activity with little relevance, in sharp decline.

Due to the increase in public use of the park, in recent years the tertiary sector, tied to the service sector, has grown alongside the offer of pedagogical and leisure facilities, wineries and gastronomic establishments. Some of them form part of the programme *Parc a taula* (Park at the Table), with which you can enjoy some of the best cuisine made with produce from the park.

## 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 Serralada Litoral Park has various strategically located information points and a documentation centre, in addition to numerous signed itineraries, routes and guided walks, pedagogical and cultural facilities, recreational areas and viewing points, permanent exhibitions and travelling exhibitions and informative publications.

Environmental education workshops and activities as well as 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); a range of options for discovering and enjoying our natural environment, always in a respectful manner.

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