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 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.

Get the most out of your visit
You’ll find all our partner's activities and events on our website. www.parcs.diba.cat

The environment and the economy
Agricultural wealth and a source of life for many species

Feeding the Barcelona metropolitan area
The Agrarian Park, an economic area specialising in agricultural production.

In the midst of the metropolitan area, the Agrarian Park is an economic hub for the production of fresh, local, seasonal food.

The El Baix Llobregat Agrarian Park is a leader in protecting and enhancing agricultural activity in the alluvial plains of the Llobregat Delta and the lower Llobregat valley, in the El Baix Llobregat region. The Park covers an area of 3,489.83 hectares across 14 municipalities that have a population of 818,076 inhabitants.

The Agrarian Park Consortium is the Park’s management body. Its aims are to enhance agricultural activity through specific programmes that preserve the productive values of agricultural lands and to promote the area’s high-quality produce and local consumption. To achieve these aims, the Consortium has created a special label “Producte Fresc del Parc Agrari” to identify local farms that produce fruits and vegetables following a comprehensive management approach, with a project for the future that preserves viable and sustainable agricultural activity.
Barcelona Provincial Council’s Natural Parks Network consists of municipalities within its geographical scope. Ensuring the territorial and environmental balance of the 100 parks, including a whole range of activities to discover and respectfully and in harmony with the area’s agricultural environments, the Natural Parks Network also promotes environmental education and the development of the area. It works towards achieving a balance between agricultural areas and enhancing agricultural activity in the alluvial plains of the El Baix Llobregat region. The Park covers an area of 3,489.83 square kilometers, which can be divided into three geographical areas: the Montseny region, consisting of the Sant Llorenç del Munt i l’Obac Natural Park, El Montnegre i el Corredor Park, Serralada Oriental Park of Catalonia, and the Girona region, which includes the El Baix Llobregat Agrarian Park. The El Baix Llobregat Agrarian Park has an information centre at Can Comas in El Prat de Llobregat, featuring a permanent exhibition on agriculture in the Llobregat Delta and an arboretum with a variety of organically grown native fruit and vegetable species. Can Comas organizes educational workshops and activities for students to learn more about Catalonia’s agricultural wealth and a source of life for many species

Agricultural wealth and a source of life for many species

Agriculture and natural areas form a man-made landscape of great social and environmental value.

An agroecosystem that tries to balance food production, social processes and ecological processes.

The Park reflects the biodiversity associated with agricultural activity. Nearly 350 species of birds demonstrate the delta’s importance as a stopover on migration routes. In the fields you can find house sparrows and tree sparrows, starlings, Eurasian hoopoes and the occasional buzzard. The North African hedgehog stands out among the wild mammals because of its unique presence in croplands and its tolerance alongside more common Mediterranean species. You can also see farm animals like sheep, goats and the Catalana chicken. Croplands, wetlands and pine forests form a varied landscape of plant life that has great ecological value.

This agricultural space is a source of environmental values highly prized by society, such as sustaining one of Catalonia’s most important aquifers and acting as a green lung for CO₂ capture in the Barcelona metropolitan area.

From prehistoric ruins to Catalan Art Nouveau gems

The settlement of the territory has a rich and varied history.

Paleolithic and Neolithic sites, Roman villas, mediaeval castles and farmhouses are treasures of the area’s historical and architectural heritage.

From the Paleolithic, we find El Carpet at Molins de Rei; from the Neolithic, we have the tomb of the sepulchre at Can Tintorer (Gavà); from the Bronze Age, there are the Bóbila necropolises at Can Roca in Pallejà, and the Beirani sites at Puig Castellar (Sant Vicenç dels Horts). You can also visit well-preserved Roman sites such as the villa Ca l’Esplugà in Pallejà, the Plaça de les Bruixes II in Molins de Rei and the Roman baths at Sant Boi.

Icons of Catalan Art Nouveau include the Church of Colònia Güell designed by Antoni Gaudí (Santa Coloma de Cervelló), Les Begudes cardboard factory (Sant Joan Despí) and the premises of the Societat General d’Aigües de Barcelona in Cornellà de Llobregat.

Some seventy farmhouses, known locally as masias, showcase the region’s rich agricultural tradition and the unique architectural features from different eras.

The environment and life

For centuries, this has been a land of farmers.

Agricultural activity has been a platform to invigorate the local economy through farmers’ markets, fairs and gastronomy, all with their own unique character.

Until recently, the region’s economic activity has been closely tied to agriculture. The construction of irrigation canals in the 19th century initiated a transformation in the growing of vegetables and fruit trees, and the railway soon gave rise to one of the most productive periods for the export of fruits and vegetables to the rest of Europe. The process of industrialisation between 1950 and 1975 left an indelible mark on rural areas. Farming ceased to be the main activity and some of the best agricultural land went to urban settlement and industrial use. Thanks to intense pressure from the farming community, this agricultural area has been safeguarded for the production of fresh local food with high environmental value.

Gavà asparagus, El Baix artichokes, El Baix cherries, the Catalana chicken and the great mulein of Molins de Rei are unique hallmarks of the region’s gastronomy and its many popular festivals.

Get the most out of your visit

It’s easy to do, whether its an impromptu stroll or an activity-packed stay.

The Park has readily accessible facilities and programmes for you to get to know the place better and enjoy everything on offer.

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Masia Can Comas

Built in the 16th and 17th centuries, it is the headquarters of the Agrarian Park Consortium.

Agricultural cooperatives

Key organisations in the structure and promotion of the area’s agricultural sector.

Nelson Mandela Bridge

A cable-stayed structure of contemporary design with high arches, this is the last bridge before the mouth of the river.

Molins de Rei Wetlands

Small natural oasis where a wide variety of birds nest in the midst of the urban area.

El Llobregat Path (GR 270)

The Llobregat blue route, a hiking trail that connects Barcelona with inland Catalonia.

Fruit trees in the lower Llobregat valley

Springtime in the lower Llobregat valley is a spectacle of nature as the fruit trees blossom.

How to get there

BY CAR

AP-2, exit toward the A-2
B-20 Ronda de Dalt / Airport
C-131, exit 108 (St. Lluis)
C-32, exit 119 (El Prat de Llobregat)
C-31, exit 318 (El Prat de Llobregat / Barcelona)
C-32, exit 119 (El Prat de Llobregat)
BY BUS

Nafarroa
Tel. +34 932 987 688
Transportes Metropolitanos de Barcelona
(3008), Tel. +34 932 907 074
UNDERGROUND

Line L9 "Cornella" station
Lines L9 "El Prat Aeroport" and "Mas Blau"
station

Facilities

PARK OFFICE

Can Comas
Camí de la Riera, s/n. El Prat de Llobregat
Tel. +34 932 987 190

INFORMATION CENTRES

Information Centre at the El Baix Llobregat Agrarian Park
Can Comas, El Prat de Llobregat
Tel. +34 932 987 190

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

Documentation Centre at the El Baix Llobregat Agrarian Park
Can Comas, El Prat de Llobregat
Tel. +34 932 987 190

The farmers’ market at the El Baix Llobregat Agrarian Park is a place that brings farmers and consumers together. It offers a chance to buy directly from local fruit and vegetable growers, building trust between producers and consumers.

Farmers’ markets

“Producte Fresc del Parc Agrari”: a special label to promote local seasonal agriculture at markets.

The lower valley of the Llobregat river lies between the municipalities of Pallejà and El Papiol upstream, and Cornellà and Sant Boi de Llobregat downstream. Peach, plum, apple and pear trees live alongside the derry tree, the iconic crop of spring festivals in municipalities of the lower Llobregat valley.

NOTES:

- The Cal Dimoni ponds play a vital role in connecting the lowland of the Ebro Delta and the Llobregat Delta Natural Areas and the Natura 2000 Network. You can find water birds, waders and plant life typical of Mediterranean wetlands.

- The left-hand pillar features an arch and a boat used to cross the Llobregat. The right-hand pillar features the inscription “BARCA SEM BOI, 1739”, marking the spot where a boat used to cross the Llobregat river to Sant Boi.

- The four lookout points, located strategically for spotters to feel the thrill of these heavy-bodied birds on their approach and take-off, are designed for marvelling at the show. There is parking and you can get there on public transport too.

- The Cal Dimoni ponds are a group of three man-made bodies of water resulting from the aggregate extraction in the 1970s. They form part of the Llobregat Delta Natural Areas and the Natura 2000 Network.