

# 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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## Hills amidst the Plains and the Sea

The park plays a fundamental ecological role, since it connects the coast with the valleys inland.

*Its location, in a densely populated area surrounding the metropolitan area of Barcelona, has helped turn it into a busy natural space.*

With a surface area of 7,408.24 ha, the park spans the EIN (Space of Natural Interest) of La Conreria-Sant Mateu-Céllecs and is situated in the central part of the Litoral and Marina mountain ranges, between the Besòs river and the Argentona stream.

This natural space is regulated and protected by the Special Plan for the Protection of the Natural Environment of the La Conreria-Sant Mateu-Céllecs Landscape and it is characterised by gentle slopes, a pleasant climate and a Mediterranean forest of oak and pine trees that rise up between the sea and the plains of the El Maresme and the El Vallès Oriental depression.



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Park app

### Parcs de Catalunya

#### Xarxa de Parcs Naturals de la Diputació de Barcelona

Parc del Castell de Montesquiu, Espai Natural de les Guilleries-Savassona, Parc Natural del Montseny, Parc Natural de Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac, Parc del Montnegre i el Corredor, Parc de la Serralada Litoral, Parc de la Serralada de Marina, Parc Natural de la Serra de Collserola, Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat, Parc del Garraf, Parc d'Olèrdola, Parc del Foix.



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## Parc de la Serralada Litoral

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# A Great Variety of Habitats and a Refuge for Species

Between the sunny and shaded areas, the variety of natural environments translates into fauna that is equally as varied.

*In spite of being a particularly forested area, the agricultural areas and the open spaces in the central part of the park increase its biodiversity.*

The stone and Aleppo pine forests, on the slopes of El Maresme, contrast with the holm oaks, accompanied by oak trees, on the damp and leafy shaded spots of the El Vallès side. The scarce water courses are home to alders, poplars and hazelnut trees, which are interspersed with reed swamps, poplar plantations and plane trees.

Squirrels, common genet, long-tailed field mice, Euroasian badgers and foxes are some of the more common mammals. Among the numerous birds, we find jays, European green woodpeckers, robins and great tits. Birds of prey such as the goshawk, the sparrow-hawk, the eagle-owl, the Egyptian vulture, the short-toed snake-eagle and the European honey buzzard look for prey in summer in clearings and open spaces. Marbled newts and fire salamanders, among other amphibians, and reptiles such as the Montpellier snake, complete a varied range of fauna, who find the park to be an ideal space to live and take refuge.

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## Neolithic Gems, Castles and Hermitages

Its privileged location has made the park a coveted territory.

*Remains of human presence on these lands date back to prehistoric times and, since then, it has not ceased.*

From the Neolithic period numerous extraordinary examples remain such as the dolmens of Roca d'en Toni, Castellruf and Céllecs, among others, or the cave of Les Encantades and the cave of La Granota. In the Iberian age, the Laietani built various settlements on top of the hills such as those of Cadira del Bisbe, Burriac and Céllecs.

During the Middle Ages, the Romanesque hermitages of Sant Mateu, Sant Bartomeu de Cabanyes and Sant Pere de Clarà were erected, and farmhouses such as Can Boquet were built. On the summit of the same name stands Burriac castle, a symbol of the park.

In the modern age, the arrival of the train, along with the phenomenon of summer holidaying, transformed and gave new life to some areas of the park, converting it into a great space between El Vallès and El Maresme.



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## The Environment and Life

Since ancient times, economic exploitation of natural resources has been a constant factor that has transformed the park's landscape.

*The main economic activities are agriculture, livestock and forestry; however, the tertiary sector is becoming stronger and stronger.*

On the slopes of El Maresme, characterised by a pleasant climate, vineyards and vegetable gardens are abundant, as well as the cultivation of flowers and ornamental plants, whilst livestock has a secondary presence. By contrast, on the El Vallès side, which has a harsher climate, there is greater development in livestock and the cultivation of cereals and fodder. In terms of silviculture, there are coniferous forest plantations and leafy areas with poplar trees and plane trees, especially noticeable in the area surrounding El Mogent. In the forests of the mountains, rich in pine trees, pine cones are collected to extract the prized pine nuts, which are used in baking.

Currently, agricultural activity and the use of farmhouses are increasingly becoming practices linked to the tertiary sector, since pedagogical and leisure facilities, as well as wineries and restaurants, have emerged. 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 a strategically located information centre and point and a documentation centre, in addition to numerous signposted itineraries, routes and guided walks, pedagogical and cultural facilities, viewing points, 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); a range of options for discovering and enjoying our natural environment, always in a respectful manner.

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