

# 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.**

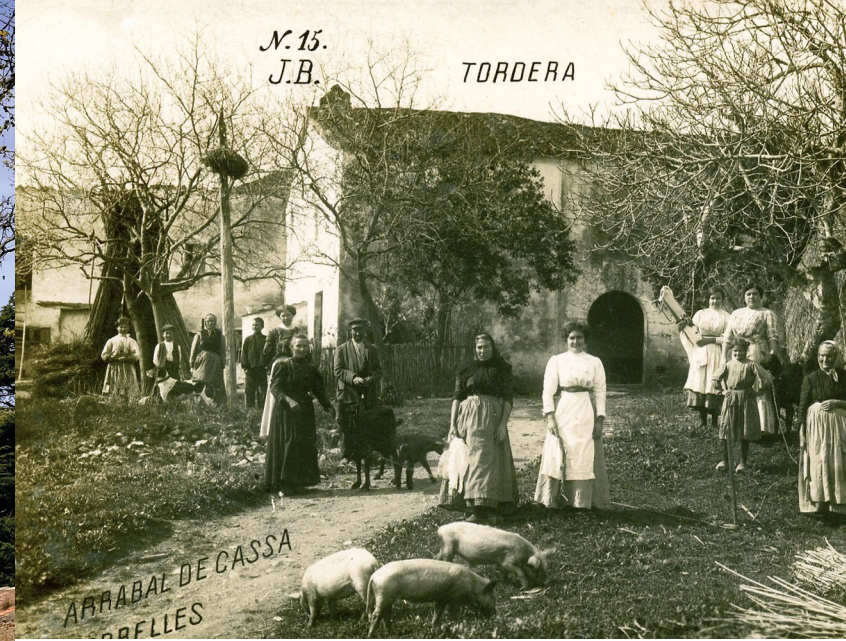
It is comprised of 102,587 ha, spread out across 100 municipalities. These municipalities represent 22% of Barcelona province territory and are home to 70% of the population of Catalonia.

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.



## An Exceptional Geographical Setting

Close to the sea but inland, beneath the shadows of lush forests, the park possesses a great variety of natural resources and traces of ancient forest activity.

**Neolithic dolmens, Iberian remains and medieval churches appear in a diverse landscape comprised of crops, forests and farmhouses.**

Situated in the Litoral Catalana range, between the regions of El Maresme and El Vallès Oriental, El Montnegre i el Corredor Park is comprised of 15,010 ha. It is formed of two mountains, El Corredor, to the south, which has a modest elevation and soft peaks topped off by the sanctuary of the same name at 675 m; and El Montnegre, to the north, which in contrast rises up sharply at its highest points, the summits of the mountains Turó Gros (758.01 m) and Turó d'en Vives (760.30 m).

The Vallgorguina and Arenys streams separate the two massifs, which meet at the Collsacreu pass mountain. The Mediterranean and the Vallès depression limit the park longitudinally, whilst the Argentona stream and Tordera river do so transversely.

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Parks app

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English



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**Diputació Barcelona**

Xarxa de Parcs Naturals



## Two Sides to Biodiversity

Diverse and abundant flora and fauna.

*The proximity to the sea and the thermal contrast between the shaded and sunny slopes contributes to a great variety of species.*

The ecosystems of El Montegre and El Corredor are conditioned by the climate, the topography and the age-old human activity. Pine and holm oak forests containing oak trees and cork oaks predominate on the coastal side. The interior slopes, previously forested by wetter oak tree and other deciduous tree vegetation, have been traditionally replanted with chestnut trees.

This variety of different environments contributes to a diverse range of fauna. One can find Mediterranean forest species such as the common genet, the garden dormouse and the squirrel, as well as central European animals such as the beech marten, the bank vole and the woodcock. Predators, such as the short-toed snake-eagle, the buzzard, the Montpellier snake and the lizard, benefit from the presence of thousands of insects, other invertebrates, reptiles, birds of all kinds and small mammals.

© Lúdia Freixas



© Josep Cano

## Dolmens, Churches and Farmhouses

Likewise, one can find different traces of human settlements.

*As an area of transit, its development has been characterised by trade and economic activity.*

The La Pedra Gentil and Ca l'Arenes dolmens and the remnants of Iberian settlements in the towns around the El Vent hill and the El Castell mount are vestiges of the ancient past of these villages.

Across the whole park you can find architecturally interesting constructions such as the Sant Cristòfol church (dating back to 1025), that of Sant Martí de Montnegre (dating back to the 14th century) and the El Corredor sanctuary (designated a hermitage in the year 1544).

Subsequent agricultural colonisation is reflected in the over 200 farmhouses that adorn the landscape, among which Can Pradell de la Serra, Can Bosc and Ca l'Oller de Fuirosos are of particular note.



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## The Environment and Life

A great combination of nature and human activity.

*Forest exploitation has been and still is the most important economic activity in these mountains.*

The different forms of exploitation of this natural resource have been very diverse and have had to reinvent themselves over time. Although ancient uses such as charcoal production or the exploitation of chestnut trees to make casks and packing boxes have been abandoned, the production of cork and the use of holm oaks, pine nuts from stone pines and wood from riparian forests as firewood, is still undertaken. The high demand for biomass as a renewable energy source has stimulated forestry in recent years. Various flocks of sheep and herds of goats also take advantage of the forest and in turn help maintain the few open spaces, which are of vital importance for conservation purposes and for the prevention of fires.

In order to meet the demand for cultural, educational and recreational services, various farmhouses have been converted into pedagogical facilities, rural tourism centres and restaurants. Some of these take part in the programme *Parc a taula* (Park at the Table), which allows one to enjoy the best cuisine made with produce from the local area.

## 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.*

El Montnegre i el Corredor Park boasts various strategically located information and documentation centres and points, as well as numerous hiking trails, guided walks, inclusive dramatised routes, pedagogical and cultural facilities, rural accommodation, recreational and camping spaces, temporary exhibitions, publications and audiovisuals.

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* (Poetry in the Parks), which form part of the pedagogical programme *Coneguem els nostres parcs* (Let's Get to Know Our Parks); a range of options for discovering and enjoying our natural environment, always in a respectful manner.

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## 1 Ca l'Arenes Dolmen

An impressive observer, this megalithic tomb has borne witness to customs dating back more than 5,000 years.



**OBSERVATIONS:** The lateral burial mound is surrounded by a cromlech (a group of stones embedded in the ground in a circular or elliptic formation, surrounding a plot of land). Discovered in 1997 and restored between 2006 and 2007, its chamber, pavement and roof have been conserved, in addition to the portal stone that indicated the entrance. It is one of the park's megalithic gems, along with the Pedra Gentil and La Pedra Arca dolmens and the El Trull and La Pedra Llarga stone blocks.

## 2 The Valley of the Pineda Stream and Sant Pere de Riu

Protected from the northerly winds, the valley cradles a rich example of vegetation natural to wet and cold environments.



**OBSERVATIONS:** The Pineda stream connects the different branches of El Montnegre with the coastal plains and fulfills an important function as a natural and scenic corridor. By following the course of the stream, one can find a group of farmhouses, some of them of particular note such as Can Cànovas. The Can Cua aqueduct, the Sant Jaume tower, the Sant Pere de Riu church and the Can Marquès mill and lime kiln are some of the many surprises that are to be found within this charming valley.

## 3 Sant Martí de Montnegre

A charming spot with exceptional views of the El Montseny massif.



**OBSERVATIONS:** This small nucleus consists of the Sant Martí church, the rectory, Ca l'Auladell and the hostel. The hermitage is surrounded by a garden filled with monumental tree species that reach great heights. The place is usually very secluded allowing one to retreat and contemplate the beautiful setting.

## 4 Can Bosc

This extraordinary construction stands changeless and proud of its four centuries of history.



**OBSERVATIONS:** It is one of the most important farmhouses in the park, as well as in the whole El Maresme region. Formed by one main building with four floors and two outhouses, it was erected in 1565. It has maintained intact its solid appearance and a great variety of architectural details.

## 5 Pedra Gentil Dolmen

An evocative name that recalls the pagan rituals that took place below these ancient and unique rocks over centuries.



**OBSERVATIONS:** On clear days, the Sant Llorenç del Munt and the La Mola massifs can be made out from the dolmen, in addition to the El Montseny massif. The dolmen is known about thanks to the erudition of Josep Pradell, who restored it in 1855 and gave it its table type formation, which can still be seen today. Its image has been published in numerous educational works as a typical example of a table type dolmen. However, it does not correspond with any particular known typology.

## 7 El Corredor Sanctuary

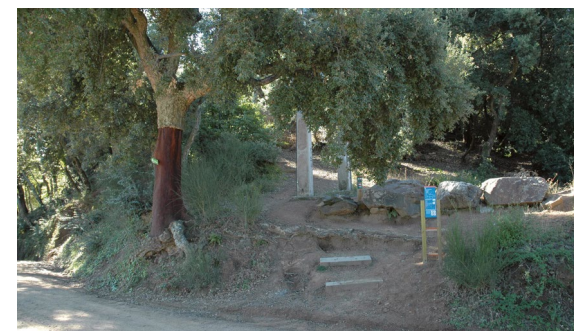
The main symbol of the park, it shares 360 degree panoramas with the visitor from its vantage point.



**OBSERVATIONS:** In the past, this sanctuary was of great importance to the nearby villages in the El Maresme and El Vallès regions. These days, events are still celebrated here on specific days. It is the starting point for many walks and it is also host to one of the main information centres in the park. Aside from the views, the great square-floored bell tower, the late Gothic-style church and the pretty plateresque altarpiece stand out.

## 9 El Montnegre Summit

An extreme refuge for mid-elevation mountain ecosystems with a great diversity of species.



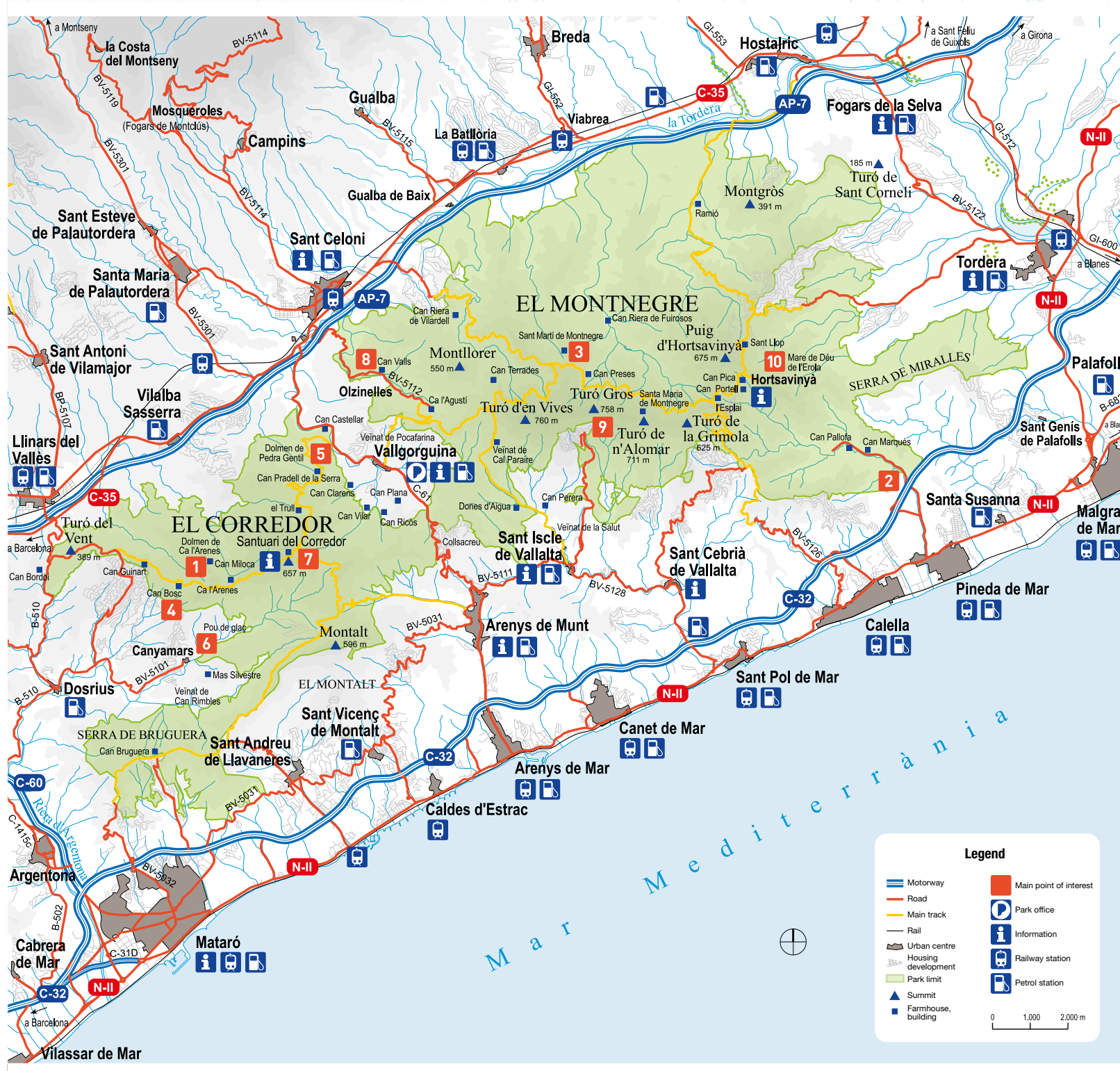
**OBSERVATIONS:** In these forests, oak woods are abundant, dominated by the sessile oak, although there are also a high number of Mirbeck's oak trees, which are very rare in Catalonia. The high degree of humidity and the rich soil benefit a unique ecosystem. A good example of this is found at the head of the great Can Preses hollow, situated close to the summit, where there is an exceptional clearing with beech trees that survive outside of their habitual area of distribution thanks to the frequent fog that occurs at the summit.

## 10 Hortsavinyà

The ancient village of Hortsavinyà boasts a church, school, cemetery and rectory. Until 1930 it had its own town council.



**OBSERVATIONS:** The earliest documentation mentioning Hortsavinyà dates back to the year 1101. The Sant Eulàlia parish church, later also dedicated to Saint Lupus, is documented as far back as 1080. In the current community of Hortsavinyà are the Sant Llop church and the most recent lime kiln, the only one to be conserved in its entirety in the whole massif. One can visit the hundred-year-old holm oak trees of Can Portell, one of which was cut in half by lightning. There is also a park information centre here.



## Access

**BY ROAD**  
**AP-7** (Mediterranean motorway)  
**C-32** (El Maresme motorway)  
**C-60** (Mataró to Granollers motorway)  
**N-II** (Madrid to La Jonquera road)  
**C-35** (Granollers to Hostalric road)  
**C-61** (Arenys de Mar to Sant Celoni road)

**BY COACH**  
 Sagalés, Tel.: +34 902 130 014  
**Arenys de Munt - Sant Celoni line.** Stops in Arenys de Munt, Vallgorguina and Sant Celoni.  
**Can Massuet Urbanisation - El Far - Llinars del Vallès line.** Stops in Llinars del Vallès and Can Massuet.

**SUBURBAN RAILWAY SERVICES**  
 Renfe, Tel.: +34 902 240 202  
**Line R1 (Molins de Rei - Maçanet-Massanes along the coast).** Stops in Mataró, Pineda de Mar, Canet de Mar, Arenys de Munt and Tordera.  
**Line R2 (Sant Vicenç de Calders - Maçanet-Massanes inland).** Stops in Llinars del Vallès and Sant Celoni.

[mobilitat.gencat.cat](http://mobilitat.gencat.cat)

## Facilities

**PARK OFFICE**  
 Església, 13, 2º. 08471 Vallgorguina  
 Tel.: +34 938 679 452  
 p.montnegre@diba.cat

**INFORMATION POINTS AND CENTRES**  
**Arenys de Munt Information Centre**  
 Can Jalpi Park (La Central)  
 Tel.: +34 931 160 030  
**Hortsavinyà Information Centre**  
 Veïnat d'Hortsavinyà (Tordera)  
 Tel.: +34 937 443 327  
**Sant Cebrià de Vallalta Information Centre**  
 Miquel Martí i Pol, 2  
 Tel.: +34 937 630 822  
**Vallgorguina Information Centre**  
 Església, 13  
 Tel.: +34 938 679 332  
**El Corredor Sanctuary Information Centre**  
 El Corredor sanctuary enclosure (Dosrius)  
 Tel.: +34 937 634 367  
**Sant Celoni Tourist Office Information Point**  
 Major, 53  
 Tel.: +34 938 670 171  
**Fogars de la Selva Information Point**  
 Pl. Serra de Marina, s/n  
 Tel.: +34 937 644 288  
**Sant Iscle de Vallalta Information Point**  
 Escoles, 2, bxs.  
 Tel.: +34 937 946 005  
**Tordera Market Information Point**  
 Tordera Market

**OTHER FACILITIES**  
**El Montnegre i el Corredor Park Documentation Centre. Mataró**  
 Can Boet. Pablo Iglesias, 83  
 Tel.: +34 937 582 206  
**El Montnegre i el Corredor Park Documentation Centre. Sant Celoni**  
 Parc de la Rectoria Vella, s/n  
 Tel.: +34 938 641 213  
**Hortsavinyà Recreational Area**  
 Tordera to Calella de Mar forest trail  
 Tel.: +34 937 443 327  
**El Corredor Recreational Area**  
 Can Bordoí (Llinars del Vallès) to Vallgorguina forest trail  
 Tel.: +34 938 412 917  
**La Solana del Corredor Youth Camp**  
 Can Bordoí (Llinars del Vallès) to Vallgorguina forest trail  
 Tel.: +34 938 412 917 | +34 686 810 608  
**El Corredor Nature School**  
 Ca l'Arenas (Dosrius)  
 Tel.: +34 937 955 405  
**Mataró Museum**  
 Carreró, 17-19  
 Tel.: +34 937 582 401  
**Sant Celoni Old Rectory**  
 Parc de la Rectoria Vella, s/n  
 Tel.: +34 938 675 642  
**Masia Can Pica Rural Accommodation**  
 Veïnat d'Hortsavinyà, 4 (Tordera)  
 Tel.: +34 937 630 858

You can consult the opening times and services offered by the park facilities at: [parcs.diba.cat/web/montnegre](http://parcs.diba.cat/web/montnegre)

## 6 Canyamars Snow Well

A magnificent example of an extinct industry that represents the ingenuity of ancient technologies.



**OBSERVATIONS:** The first documented reference to the Canyamars snow well is in the years 1770 and 1780, although experts deem it to have already been in existence in the 17th century. It was built on the property of Can Galzeran, the current Can Prats farmhouse situated on the shaded part of the valley of the Rupit stream. The water from the stream is diverted towards some nearby water tanks, where it is then extracted after it has frozen. Once the ice has been cut, it is stored in the inside of the well.

## 8 Olzinelles Valley

Lush and rarely frequented, this hidden valley is host to one of the most interesting surprises in the park.



**OBSERVATIONS:** The slowly combustion of pine wood in the kilns created pitch, a product with many different uses including gas lighting, paint, waterproofing, etc. The stately Can Valls farmhouse is found here, comprised of a group of buildings that include a chapel. Ca l'Agustí is also found here, dating back to the 14th century. You can also find pine kilns with inscriptions from the 9th and 10th centuries here.