The Network of Natural Parks

It guarantees a territorial and environmental balance to 97 municipalities in its geographical area.

The Network of Natural Parks of Barcelona Provincial Council is made up of 13 protected natural spaces with high landscape, ecological and cultural value.

It comprises 98,969 ha, spread out across 97 municipalities. These municipalities account for 22% of the territory within the boundaries of Barcelona and 70% of the population of Catalonia.

It plans and manages the natural and agricultural spaces by means of special plans drawn up with the participation of all the actors involved in them.

It protects the natural, agricultural, forest, cultural and landscape values of each park.

It advocates a balance between the preservation of the parks and the economic development of the population.

It regulates environmental education and public use of natural and cultural heritage.



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© Pepe Herrero (Culture Workshop)



Paper from environment-friendly sources

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The Barcelona Provincial Council's Natural Park Network
Castell de Montesquiu Park, Les Guilleries-Savassona Natural Area, El Montseny Natural Park, Sant Miquel del Fai, Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac Natural Park, El Montnegre i el Corredor Park, Serralada Litoral Park, Serralada de Marina Park, El Besòs River Park, Serra de Collserola Natural Park, El Garraf Park, Olèrdola Park and El Foix Park.

Xarxa de Parcs Naturals | Diputació Barcelona

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Barcelona Provincial Council. Mapping: MIGSM, Cartògraf. DL B 0000-2026

English

Parc de la Serralada de Marina

An ancient and living land

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

Despite the human pressure, we can find fauna and flora of great interest and a rich historical heritage, particularly Iberian settlements, shrines, monasteries and farmhouses.

Located in the coastal mountain range, the Serralada de Marina Park has a protected area covering 2,086 hectares, bordered to the west by the Besòs River and the Serra de Collserola Natural Park and, to the north-east, by the Serralada Littoral Park.

Spanning the counties of El Barcelonès, El Maresme, El Vallès Oriental and El Vallès Occidental, its strategic location beside one of the most densely populated areas of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area means the Park plays a key role in the territorial structuring of the area in terms of its natural and heritage values.

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Between the Mediterranean and El Vallès

The differences in the terrain and orientation give rise to a remarkable wealth of species and highly diverse natural systems.

The slopes of El Vallès host formations typical of more humid areas such as oak and holm oak groves. Facing the sun, you'll find shrub and herbaceous communities, chiefly stone pines.

Within this context, we should mention the formations of interest due to their rarity, vulnerability and singularity, including the beehive meadows and ground cover, scrubland and shrubs, with highly diverse flora and fauna. The riparian forests and the chaste berry bushes constitute a network of biological connectors.

As for the fauna, wherever the low shrub formations dominate we can find species typical of open spaces, some of them quite rare in Catalonia: nesting and trans-Saharan migratory birds such as the black-eared wheatear, the masked warbler, the shrike and the tawny pipit. The Park is also an important point of passage on the migratory route of birds of prey such as the red-footed falcon and Eleonora's falcon.

© Iñaki Relanzón





© E. Bellapart

Following the human footprint

The Park bears witness to the history of how the inhabitants of Catalonia settled here.

A humanised mosaic with Iberian sites, imposing monasteries and delightful shrines, not to mention the numerous springs.

A bird's-eye view shows the Iberian settlements of Puig Castellar, the Turó de les Maleses and the Turó d'en Boscà co-existing with unique architectural elements such as the Charterhouse of Montalegre, the Sant Jeroni de la Murtra Monastery, the Church of Sant Pere de Reixac and the Shrines of Sant Climent and Sant Onofre.

Springs have also traditionally been important spaces for the community. The ones scattered throughout the Park allow visitors to enjoy moments of peace and quiet in a cool environment. The very long list includes the springs known as El Tort, L'Alba, L'Alzina, L'Amigó, Els Caçadors and Els Avellaners.



© E. Bellapart

The environment and life

Since ancient times, mountain dwellers have made use of the resources that nature has offered them.

Although the public use of forests and the social and protective function of the natural environment predominate, economic activities are still very diversified.

Two hundred and forty hectares of the Park area are classified as agricultural land, half of which is used as vineyards and the rest as orchards, pasture and for growing cereals. The primary use of the forests is very limited and livestock breeding is an insignificant activity that is clearly on its way out.

Due to the increase in public use of the Park, tertiary activity linked to the services sector has grown in recent years and expanded the offer of educational and leisure facilities, wineries and gastronomic establishments. Some of them are members of *Parc a taula* (Park at the table), a programme allowing visitors to enjoy the very best cuisine made with products from the Park.

Make the most of it

Doing so will be easy, whether it be an impromptu walk or whether you prefer a visit packed with scheduled activities.

The Park has a large network of facilities at your disposal, together with programmes enabling you to get to know it better and enjoy everything on offer there.

The Serralada de Marina Park has several strategically located information points and a documentation centre, in addition to numerous signposted itineraries, routes and guided walks, educational and cultural facilities, leisure areas and viewpoints, permanent and travelling exhibitions and informative publications.

Environmental education workshops and activities and recreational and cultural programmes are also organised, including *Viu el parc* (Live the Park) and *Poesia als parcs* (Poetry in the parks); a wide range of ideas that allow visitors to discover and enjoy the natural setting in an eco-friendly way.

© Oriol Clavera



1 Sant Pere de Reixac and its Valley

A unique church of pre-Romanesque origin, of great historical and artistic interest.



© Oriol Clavera

OBSERVATIONS:
It is an ideal place to enjoy splendid views and one of the most relevant religious constructions on the El Vallès side of the park.

It was consecrated in 1048 but various refurbishments have given it its current appearance. The robust bell tower, with a quadrangular base and octagonal crown, is of particular note. By way of trails flanked by holm oaks and oak trees, a signposted itinerary takes you to the Iberian settlement of Les Maleses.

2 Del Tort Fountain

A delightful retreat that brings coolness and shade to visitors.



© Montse López

OBSERVATIONS:
It is believed that the name *Tort* (bent, in English) makes reference to an old owner who wasn't able to walk straight.

This natural water fountain was restored some years ago, although the original is dated 1889. It is found next to an old farmhouse documented since the 18th century, thus the hike to the Tort fountain is a traditional rural outing for the inhabitants of Montcada.

3 The Iberian Settlement of Puig Castellar

It is one the first Iberian settlements to be excavated and a large part of the pieces are found in the Torre Balldovina museum.



© Oriol Clavera

OBSERVATIONS:
Its location allowed visual contact to be maintained with other Iberian settlements, such as Ca n'Oliver, La Rovira hill, En Boscà hill and Montjuïc.

It is believed to have been a Laietani establishment with almost two hundred inhabitants remaining until 195 BC, when, during the Second Punic War, Marcus Porcius Cato seized and burnt it. The fire provoked the abandonment of the houses where only tools, crockery and utensils remained.

4 Sant Jeroni de la Murtra and its Hermitages

The friars founded it at the beginning of the 15th century, attracted by the wealth of the area in terms of water and vegetation.



© Antoni Canela

OBSERVATIONS:
The environment boasts the hermitages of Sant Climent, Sant Onofre and La Miranda, also built by the Order of Saint Jerome from the Belén valley.

This imposing Gothic gem (declared an Artistic Historical Monument in 1975, and later a Cultural Heritage Site) was the royal residence and where Columbus was received upon arriving from his first journey to America. Affected by the confiscations of Mendizábal, it was subsequently abandoned and fell into various private hands.

5 The Iberian Settlement of Les Maleses

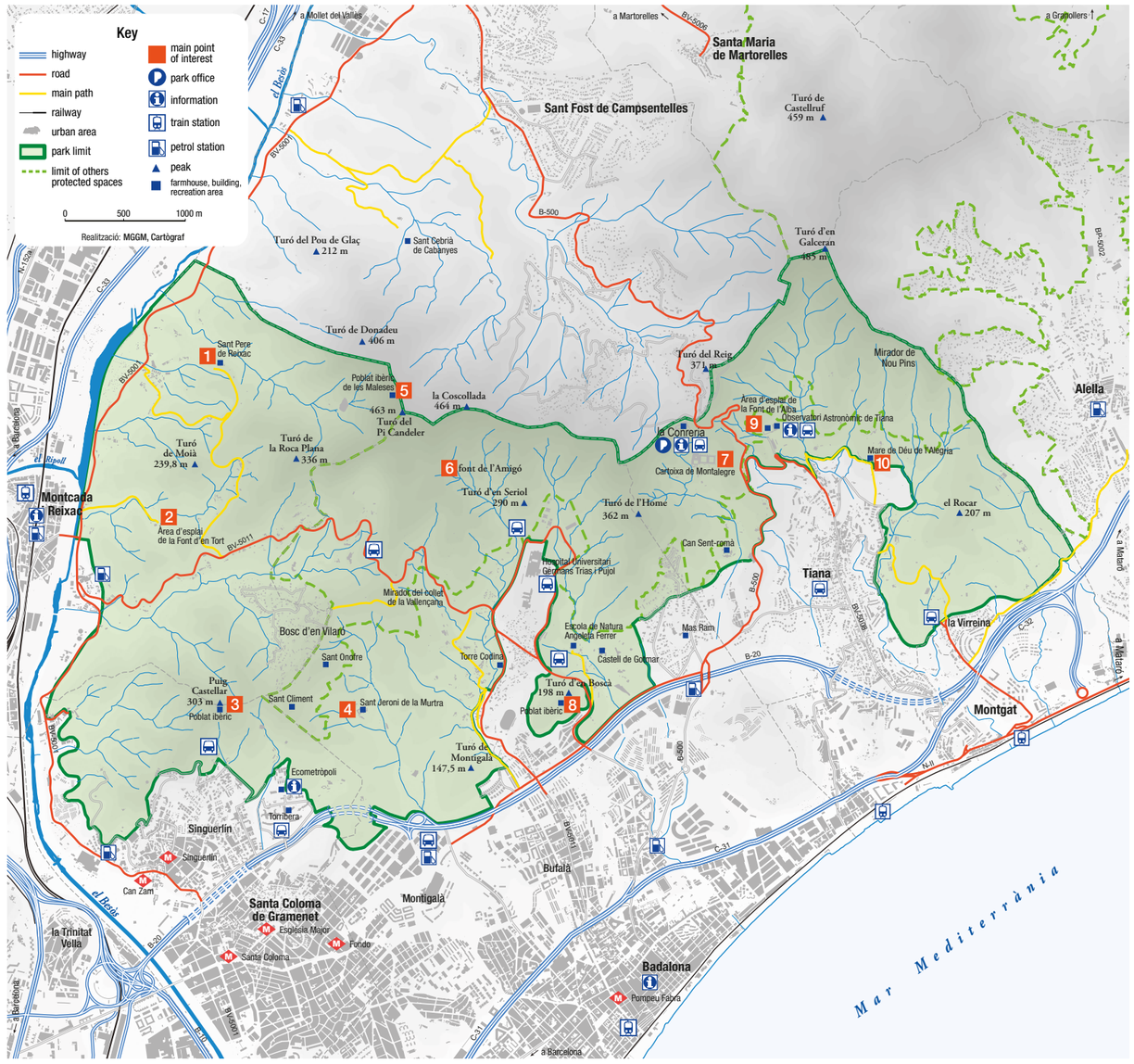
Situated at 450 m altitude, it visually dominates the El Vallès and part of El Barcelonès and El Maresme.



© Juan Manuel Borrero

OBSERVATIONS:
Its pivotal moment took place between the 3th and 4th centuries BC, but it was abandoned before the arrival of Roman troops.

The Iberians of Les Maleses were Laietani, inhabitants of Laietania, a territory that used to span land stretching from El Montnegre to El Garraf, on what are today the regions of El Baix Llobregat, El Barcelonès, El Vallès Occidental, El Vallès Oriental and El Maresme.



6 L'Amigó Fountain

This spot is the perfect place to have breakfast or rest and it has a continuous flow of water throughout the year.



© Fernando Carceller

OBSERVATIONS:
Arrive by way of the circular itinerary that leaves the Can Ruti roundabout, go up the stream until the fountain, and pass by a vineyard pond on the way to the starting point.

The existence of fountains is very important for maintaining certain species of fauna, in particular amphibians. To strengthen its reproduction, a small pond covered with a grill has been set up to assist the development of the aquatic phase.

7 Carthusian of Santa Maria de Montalegre

Spectacular and majestic, monumental and austere at the same time, it is one of the Park's most remarkable buildings.



© Oriol Clavera

OBSERVATIONS:
Today, it is the only Carthusian monastery in Catalonia that still has a community of monks.

Founded in 1415, this Carthusian monastery reached its peak during the 17th and 18th centuries. Its two large Gothic cloisters and the repetitive layout of the monks' cells reflect the rationality and functionality characteristic of Carthusian architecture.

8 The Iberian Settlement of Turó d'en Boscà

It had different defensive elements and systems.



© Museu de Badalona

OBSERVATIONS:
The construction of the settlement dates back to the 4th century BC and was occupied up to the 1th century BC, when the Romans founded *Baetulo*, what is the current town of Badalona.

Among the everyday objects that have appeared during excavation campaigns, the *Vas de les Naus* (Ship Vessel, in English) is especially relevant –a ceramic vessel decorated with two Greek ships that has become the most ancient maritime scene to be discovered in Catalonia.

9 De l'Alba Fountain and Tiana Astronomical Observatory

Walk and discover the sky.



© Arxiu XPN

OBSERVATIONS:
From this point, several signposted routes of varying difficulty begin: SL-C 146 (*Font de l'Alba* – Conreria), SL-C 145 (Montalegre Valley) and SL-C 95 (Tiana – *Turó d'en Galceran*).

In the past, De l'Alba Fountain was a traditional walking spot for the inhabitants of Tiana. Following the La Conreria fire in 1994, the vegetation has gradually recovered, and today the site is home to a recreational area. Nearby, you will find the Tiana Astronomical Observatory, which also houses a Park Information Point.

10 La Mare de Déu de l'Alegria Hermitage

The ancient parish church of Sant Cebrià de Tiana has undergone numerous refurbishments.



© Oriol Clavera

OBSERVATIONS:
Every Easter Monday, the *Aplec de l'Alegria* (meeting of joy, in English) is celebrated, during which couplets in honour of Our Lady of Joy are sung.

Blessed by Berenguer, the Bishop of Barcelona, in 1100, the current building is of Late Gothic style, refurbished and expanded during the 18th century. It has a single nave and a polygonal apse with a square bell tower with a pyramid-shaped hip roof. The interior boasts mural paintings by Ignasi Serra Goday.

Accesses

PRIVATE VEHICLE
B-20 (Ronda de Dalt)
C-58 (Barcelona – Sabadell–Terrassa Motorway)
C-31 (Maresme Motorway)
C-33 (Barcelona – AP-7 Motorway)
B-500 (Badalona – Mollet del Vallès Road, La Conreria)
BV-5001 (La Roca Road)
BV-5011 (Badalona–Montcada i Reixac Road, La Vallençana)
BV-5008 (Tiana Road)

METRO AND BUS
For updated information on routes, stops and timetables, please visit the following websites:
ambmobilitat.cat / mou-te.gencat.cat / tmb.cat / sagales.com

TRAIN
Rodalies de Catalunya
Tel. 900 410 041
rodalies.gencat.cat

R1 Line (Molins de Rei – Maçanet-Massanes via Mataró)
- Badalona, Montgat and Montgat Nord stations.
- Access to the Park from Badalona and Tiana, with connections to intercity buses.

R2 Line (Castelldefels – Granollers Centre) and **R2 Nord Line** (Airport – Maçanet-Massanes via Granollers)
- Montcada i Reixac station.
- Access to the Park from Montcada i Reixac.

For further information, go to **parcs.diba.cat/ca/web/marina/com-s-hi-arriba**.

Facilities

PARK OFFICE
La Conreria. B-500 Road, km 6. 08391 Tiana
Tel. 933 956 336
Email: p.smarina@diba.cat

INFORMATION POINTS
Information Point at Ecometropoli
Recinte Torribera. Montserrat Pavilion
Prat de la Riba, 171. Santa Coloma de Gramenet
Tel. 618 007 230
Information Point at Badalona Tourist Office
Francesc Layret, 78-82
Tel. 934 832 990
Information Point at Tiana Astronomical Observatory
Eduard Fontserè, s/n. Sports Complex
Tel. 934 650 626

OTHER FACILITIES
Serralada de Marina Park Documentation Centre
Elisenda de Montcada Municipal Library
Tarragona, 32. Montcada i Reixac
Tel. 934 925 959
Font de l'Alba Recreational Area
Tiana Road to the sports area (swimming pool) and the Astronomical Observatory
(paved road, 1 km from Tiana)
Font de l'Alzina Recreational Area
Camí de la Font de l'Alzina, s/n
Access from Les Oliveres neighbourhood (Santa Coloma de Gramenet) along a 1.5 km unpaved track
Font del Tort Path Recreational Area
Access from the BV-5001 (La Roca) road, taking a forest track near Torre dels Conills
Font del Tort Recreational Area
Access from the BV-5001 (La Roca) road, taking a forest track near Torre dels Conills
Les Oliveres Recreational Area
Access from Les Oliveres neighbourhood (Santa Coloma de Gramenet) via an unpaved track towards Font de l'Alzina
Bosquet de les Escoles Recreational Area
Access from the end of Avinguda Ramon Berenguer (Santa Coloma de Gramenet)
Angeleta Ferrer Nature School. Can Miravitges
Pomar de Dalt, 16. Badalona
Tel. 933 950 105
Ecometropoli (Environmental Facility)
Recinte Torribera. Montserrat Pavilion
Prat de la Riba, 171. Santa Coloma de Gramenet
Tel. 618 007 230

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You can view the schedules and services of the Park's facilities at: **parcs.diba.cat/web/marina**