

# 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

English

The Press and Communication Office. DL B 12049-2017

Paper sourced from environmentally sustainable resources



# 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.

© Gabriel Serra



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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.



© Roser Loire

## 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.

© Oriol Clavera





## 1 Burriac Castle

A hiker's landmark and a historical symbol of the park is the most emblematic castle in El Maresme.



**OBSERVATIONS:**  
The Gothic tower is the best preserved element and in it you will find notable architectonic details such as the loophole.

Its origin dates back to the Iberians (remains from a town are preserved) and the Romans (the Can Madozell site). In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Pere Joan Ferrer added the lower perimeter to the sovereign enclosure. In 1994, excavation and stabilisation works were undertaken.

## 2 La Cornisa Viewing Point

A place for relaxing with a privileged observatory at the feet of the summit trail.



**OBSERVATIONS:**  
You will be able to see Montjuïc and El Tibidabo, La Conreria, the Teià valley and the hills of the el Vallès side, Montserrat, La Mola and Sant Llorenç del Munt.

The natural viewing point of La Cornisa, also known as *De Teià*, is situated in the centre of the network of roads that cross the park. With wooden benches and parking for vehicles, a panoramic sign indicates the summits that can be seen.

## 3 Prehistoric Routes

Few places bring together such a high density of neolithic treasures.



**OBSERVATIONS:**  
From among more ten sites, you will see the Can Gol I and II, La Roca Foradada, La Pedra de les Orenetes and La Pedra de les Creus dolmens.

In the park, you will find an authentic neolithic paradise. So remarkable is the legacy left behind by ancient societies that two signposted itineraries have been designed to allow you to discover the so-called "Archaeological Site of Cèlles" with exceptional characteristics.

## 4 Sant Bartomeu de Cabanyes

This Romanesque gem was restored in modern times.



**OBSERVATIONS:**  
The cypress next to the hermitage is of special note, and is included in the Catalogue of Monumental Woods and Trees of La Roca del Vallès.

Documented since 1191, it has one sole nave with a semicircular apse and barrel vault, vousoired doorway and a small bell-gable tower. The interior is illuminated thanks to two windows. On Saint Barthélemy day (24 August), the small church is open to the public and a mass in honour of the saint is held.

## 5 Roca d'en Toni

The most impressive dolmen in El Maresme, popularly known as Can Boquet.



**OBSERVATIONS:**  
A small path that leaves from the dolmen takes you to a high-medieval necropolis with seven tombs constructed from granite flagstones.

It is a Catalan gallery sepulchre that preserves a large part of the granite corridor and chamber. Its construction dates from the Chalcolithic period (~2500 BC) and is testimony to the use of the mountains in the neolithic age. Close by, the La Granota, d'en Pau and d'en Joan caves are found.

## 7 Sant Mateu Hermitage

Romanesque charm in the middle of the mountains. From here you can enjoy magnificent scenic views.



**OBSERVATIONS:**  
In the area in front of the hermitage, a majestic holm oak grows at more than 15 metres in height and is almost 200 years old.

Situated at the highest point of Sant Mateu and documented since 993, this church consists of one sole nave covered with a barrel vault. The semicircular apse and the bell-gable tower situated transversely to the façade in an unusual position is of special note.

## 9 Montcabrer Cross

One of the icons of the park, with its cross and neighbouring Les Encantades cave.



**OBSERVATIONS:**  
It is an excellent viewing and observation point, from where you will be able to catch sight of the coast, the nearby mountain ranges, El Montseny and, of course, the Burriac castle.

A must-see, the cross and the nearby Les Encantades cave, a never ending source of legends, make the place especially attractive. Legend has it that the name originates from a shepherd who came from the Pyrenees and who was knowledgeable on remedies for helping people and who, one stormy night, died on the summit of the hill.

## 10 The Fountains of the Santa Maria de Martorelles Route

Signposted with the code SL-C 120, you'll be able to enjoy the coolness of the running water.



**OBSERVATIONS:**  
In the past, the natural springs were heavily frequented on holidays when people would gather to eat, have afternoon tea, dance the *sardanes* or hold meetings.

In spite of the park's Mediterranean character, you will find yourself in a land of fountains. The Sunyera fountain, the Sant Domènec i El Ca fountain, the El Ferro fountain, the Teula fountain, the Can Gurri fountain and the La Mercè fountain, although modest, are ideal places to stop at during the walk.



## Access

### BY ROAD

**Ring roads** (Barcelona exit).  
**B-20** (from Barcelona to Montgat).  
**C-31** (from Barcelona to Badalona). Both the B-20 and the C-31 continue and connect with the C-32 or the N-II.  
**Motorways**  
**C-32**, coming both from the north and the south, exits 86, 92 and 94.  
**AP-7**, coming both from the north and the south, exits 12A, 12B and 13.  
**C-60**, coming both from the north and the south, exits 1, 4 and 8.  
**Roads**  
**C-1415c** (from Granollers to Mataró).  
**BV-5106** (from La Roca del Vallès to Oñuris and Argentona).  
**BP-5002** (from El Masnou to Granollers).  
**B-500** (from Badalona to Mollet. La Conreria).  
**BV-502** (from Argentona to Vilassar de Mar. Carretera de Argentona).  
**BP-5001** (from Santa Coloma de Gramenet to La Roca del Vallès. Carretera de la Roca).  
**N-II** (from Barcelona to Mataró, road BV-502 can be taken at Vilassar de Mar).

### BY BUS

**Empresa Casas.** Tel.: +34 937 981 100. Regular lines.  
**Grup Sarbus.** Tel.: +34 902 287 000.  
**La Vallesana.** Tel.: +34 937 279 292. Regular lines.  
**Line between Vilassar de Mar and Cabrera de Mar.** Tel.: +34 937 590 091.  
**Sagalés.** Tel.: +34 902 130 014. Mataró-Argentona-La Roca del Vallès-Granollers line. Vallromanes-El Masnou line. El Masnou-Alella-Vallromanes-Valldorriol-Granollers line.

### SUBURBAN RAILWAY SERVICES

Renfe. Tel.: +34 902 240 202  
**Line R1 (Molins de Rei - Maçanet-Massanes along the coast).** Montgat, El Masnou, Premià de Mar, Vilassar de Mar and Cabrera de Mar stops.

[mobilitat.gencat.cat](mailto:mobilitat.gencat.cat)

## 6 La Cadira del Bisbe's Iberian oppidum

Testimony of the ancient Laietania.



**OBSERVATIONS:**  
It was discovered in 1929 by the museologist, historian and art critic Joaquim Folch i Torres (the youngest sibling of the family).

It is one of the many *oppidum* villages that the Iberian Laietani tribes founded in the hills of the mountain range, where the summit, the relief and the natural resources were favourable. It was walled, with a defensive tower and the nucleus was spread out on the terraces. It disappeared with the arrival of the Romans (200 AD).

## 8 Sant Miquel Castle

The watchtower of pirates and bandits.



**OBSERVATIONS:**  
The castle came to appear within a set of gifts for the famous admiral Roger de Llúria as a reward for services provided.

Built on the summit of the Sant Miquel hill, it is believed that it was originally a watchtower. Currently, part of the tower of homage, parts of the wall, the remainder of the tower and what seem to be some silos are preserved. Access to the castle is not signposted.

## Facilities

**PARK OFFICE**  
Can Magarola  
Av. Sant Mateu, 2. 08328 Alella  
Tel.: +34 937 540 024  
Email: [p.slitoral@diba.cat](mailto:p.slitoral@diba.cat)

**INFORMATION POINTS AND CENTRES**  
**La Creu de Can Boquet Information Centre**  
Creu de Can Boquet. 08339 Vilassar de Dalt  
Tel.: +34 656 903 642  
Email: [p.slitoral.canboquet@diba.cat](mailto:p.slitoral.canboquet@diba.cat)

**Can Lleonat Information Point**  
Pl. Germans Lleonat, 1. 08328 Alella  
Tel.: +34 935 554 650  
Email: [p.slitoral.canboquet@diba.cat](mailto:p.slitoral.canboquet@diba.cat)

**OTHER FACILITIES**  
**Serralada Litoral Park Documentation Centre**  
Museu Anxíu Municipal de Vilassar de Dalt  
Masia de Can Banús  
Marquès de Barberà, 9. 08339 Vilassar de Dalt  
Tel.: +34 937 507 488  
Email: [p.slitoral@diba.cat](mailto:p.slitoral@diba.cat)

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