

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's 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.

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Park app.



Turisme Sostenible en Espais Protegits



1978-2018 anys Reserva de la Biosfera Montseny



Diputació Barcelona | Àrea de Territori i Sostenibilitat

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Diputació de Girona

English

Parc Natural del
Montseny
Reserva de la Biosfera

Universal Natural Heritage

Over time, El Montseny has inspired scientists, artists and intellectuals.

Man's relationship with the area has left behind an internationally recognisable landscape.

El Montseny is situated in the Catalan Pre-coastal mountain range, between the territories of Barcelona and Girona, and boasts over 18 municipalities spread across three regions (Osona, La Selva and El Vallès Oriental).

The local population and the economic activities that are developed in the massif led to the area of the El Montseny Biosphere Reserve being expanded in 2014, up to 50,166 ha. The territory is home to a population of 51,760 inhabitants. Without a doubt, this is one of the biggest management challenges for the future.

© Iñaki Relanzón



Extraordinary Biodiversity

Three ecosystems coexist in El Montseny: the Atlantic, the Eurosiberian and the Mediterranean.

This array of habitats makes for a massif of great ecological importance, providing a home to such remarkable endemic species such as the Calotriton arnoldi.

Likewise, the massif is divided into three large mountainous subunits:

to the south, the crest line of El Turó de l'Home (1,706 m) and Les Agudes (1,705 m); to the north, El Matagalls (1,697 m), and, to the west, the Pla de la Calma plain (Puig Drau hill 1,344 m). Its great altitude and proximity to the sea means El Montseny is home to vegetation typical of the Mediterranean in the lower areas (holm-oak groves, cork oak groves and pine forest); of rainy middle mountains (mountain holm-oak groves and oak woods); and of Central European environments at over 1,000 m (beech forests and fir woods) and sub-alpine habitats at the summits (scrubs and high meadows).

In terms of fauna, it is characterised by the existence of species typical of Mediterranean climates (the wild boar, the fox, the genet, the goshawk, etc.) and others more typical of Central European areas (the hare, the dormouse, the common frog and the Calotriton arnoldi, Catalonia's only endemic vertebrae species).

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From the Prehistoric to the Present

Known everywhere for the beauty of its landscape, the first settlements in El Montseny date back to prehistoric times.

Testament to this is the discovery of stone axes and knives in Aiguafreda, El Brull, El Montseny and Sant Marçal, the megaliths of the Serra de l'Arca and Les Pinedes and the Estelada stone of the Pla de la Calma plain.

Later, during the Iberian period, the hills began to be occupied in a more stable manner, as demonstrated by the Iberian fortification on the hill of El Montgròs, the Iberian archaeological site of El Puig del Castell de Samalús and the fortified settlements of Montclús. The Romans, however, preferred to settle on the plains.

In the Middle Ages, the exploitation of natural resources intensified and it was during this period that most of the farmhouses were built.

The church of Sant Pere Desplà with its pre-Romanesque paintings and the parish churches of El Montseny, El Brull, La Móra and Sant Marçal, among others, are of particular note. You will also find the castles of Montsoriu (an impressive example of Gothic military architecture), Montclús, Fluvià, El Brull and Cruïlles, the fortified farmhouses of El Bellver and La Sala, and ensembles such as that of Tagamanent and Sant Segimon.



© IEFEC

The Environment and Life

85% of the park's territory is private property and agriculture, livestock, forestry and the service sector are a source of wealth for its inhabitants.

Agriculture, on the plains, and forestry exploitation and livestock, on the upper parts of the massif, were the economic foundations of El Montseny until well into the 20th century.

However, with the onset of industrialisation, fodder crops substituted cereals and livestock gained prominence. On the other hand, forestry work has always been a source of income and supplementary resources: production of charcoal, wood, firewood, cork, chestnut poles, medicinal herbs, etc. is significant.

At present, the decline in these activities has contributed to an increase in rural tourism, hotels and restaurants. Some of these establishments take part in the programme *Parc a Taula* (Park at the Table) and many of them have European Charter for Sustainable Tourism accreditation, which safeguards the development of tourism in the park for conservation purposes.

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 El Montseny Natural Park boasts two documentation centres and various strategically located information centres and points distributed throughout the park, in addition to numerous signed trails, guided walks, inclusive dramatised routes, pedagogical and cultural facilities, nature schools, camping and recreational areas, accommodation, audiovisuals, 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) and the school programmes *Coneguem els nostres parcs* (Let's Get to Know our Parks) and *Montseny a l'escola* (Montseny in Schools); a wide range of things to do for discovering and enjoying nature, always in a respectful manner.

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1 Aiguafreda de Dalt

A place of symbolic importance and the region's historical birthplace.



OBSERVATIONS:

You can get there by the regular Barcelona-Vic bus line and Suburban Railway line R3 (Sant Martí de Centelles-Aiguafreda).

Catalogued as a Local Cultural Heritage Site, this group of monuments is the settlement's birthplace. It boasts architectural elements and heritage from the 7th to 18th centuries. Funerary remains from the 5th century were recently discovered and it is one of the points on the signed PR-C 200 itinerary.

5 Tagamanent Ethnological Park

A witness to rural life in the middle of the 19th century.



OBSERVATIONS:

From Aiguafreda, you can take the GR 2 to Collet de Sant Martí before arriving at the Tagamanent Ethnological Park.

On the westernmost side of the Pla de la Calma plain, the park is home to the group of monuments of the Tagamanent hill (with the Romanesque church of Santa Maria at the summit), the L'Agustí House Museum—a farmhouse that offers guided tours—and the El Bellver farmhouse, a restaurant and park information point.

7 Sant Marçal

A Romanesque church from the 11th century and the source of the Tordera river.



OBSERVATIONS:

The Table of the Three Bishops is found at the foot of the cross, situated at the point where the dioceses of Vic, Arbúcies and Sant Celoni meet.

At 1,100 m altitude, Sant Marçal is not just an architectural ensemble comprised of a temple and an ancient Benedictine monastery, but is also the starting point for hikes to El Matagalls and Les Agudes. At 300 m, you will find the Bona spring, the point at which the Tordera river begins, before it finally flows into the Mediterranean between Blanes and Malgrat de Mar.

2 Gualba Stream

A fairytale stream, the stuff of legends.



OBSERVATIONS:

Along its way the stream forms beautiful pools and waterfalls (such as the lovely Gualba falls), a source of inspiration that goes beyond legend.

The Gualba stream flows from the waters of the Santa Fe reservoir until it meets the Tordera river. Follow the signed PR-C 211 itinerary that, from the Gualba train station, will take you to the reservoir, where you can contemplate the spectacular beech forest.

3 Montsoriu Castle

The most important Gothic fortress in Catalonia.



OBSERVATIONS:

The building, with a distinct military appearance, is comprised of three walled enclosures and a keep from the 10th century.

Visiting allows you to envisage how life was in a great Medieval fortress. The building, abandoned around the 16th century and now undergoing reconstruction, was the residence/palace of Bernat de Cabrera, one of the most distinguished men of the Kingdom of Catalonia and Aragon in the 14th century.

6 Collformic

The El Montseny Natural Park viewpoint.



OBSERVATIONS:

With El Montseny, El Vallès Oriental and Osona at its feet, it is the main viewpoint in the area.

Collformic, in El Brull, situated at 1,145 m altitude, is characterised by its intense green grassy landscape and its spectacular panoramas. Many excursions leave from here, such as the trail up to the Tagamanent hill via the Pla de la Calma plain, or the GR 5-2 itinerary, which heads for El Matagalls, and the SL-C 85, which descends to El Brull.

8 Masia Mariona

A farmhouse steeped in history and the headquarters of the Patxot Universe.



OBSERVATIONS:

The farmhouse was built between 1926 and 1931, under the direction of the architect Josep Danés i Torras, as a summer house for the Patxot family.

Masia Mariona is the headquarters for the exhibition on the scientific work and patronage of Rafael Patxot: The Study on the Catalan Farmhouse, The Popular Songs of Catalonia and his relationship with hiking, meteorology and astronomy. It also houses another park office and an adapted itinerary.

9 The Iberian Fortification of the Hill of El Montgròs

One of the most noteworthy Iberian settlements in Catalonia.



OBSERVATIONS:

It is part of the Route of the Iberians of the Archaeological Museum of Catalonia and guided tours are offered from the El Brull Information Centre.

South-east of El Brull, we find the Iberian fortification of the hill of El Montgròs with a magnificent defensive rampart from 5th century B.C. This strategic settlement built by the Ausetani Iberians guaranteed control of the Plain of Vic. It was occupied from the Bronze Age until the Medieval period.

10 Sant Elies

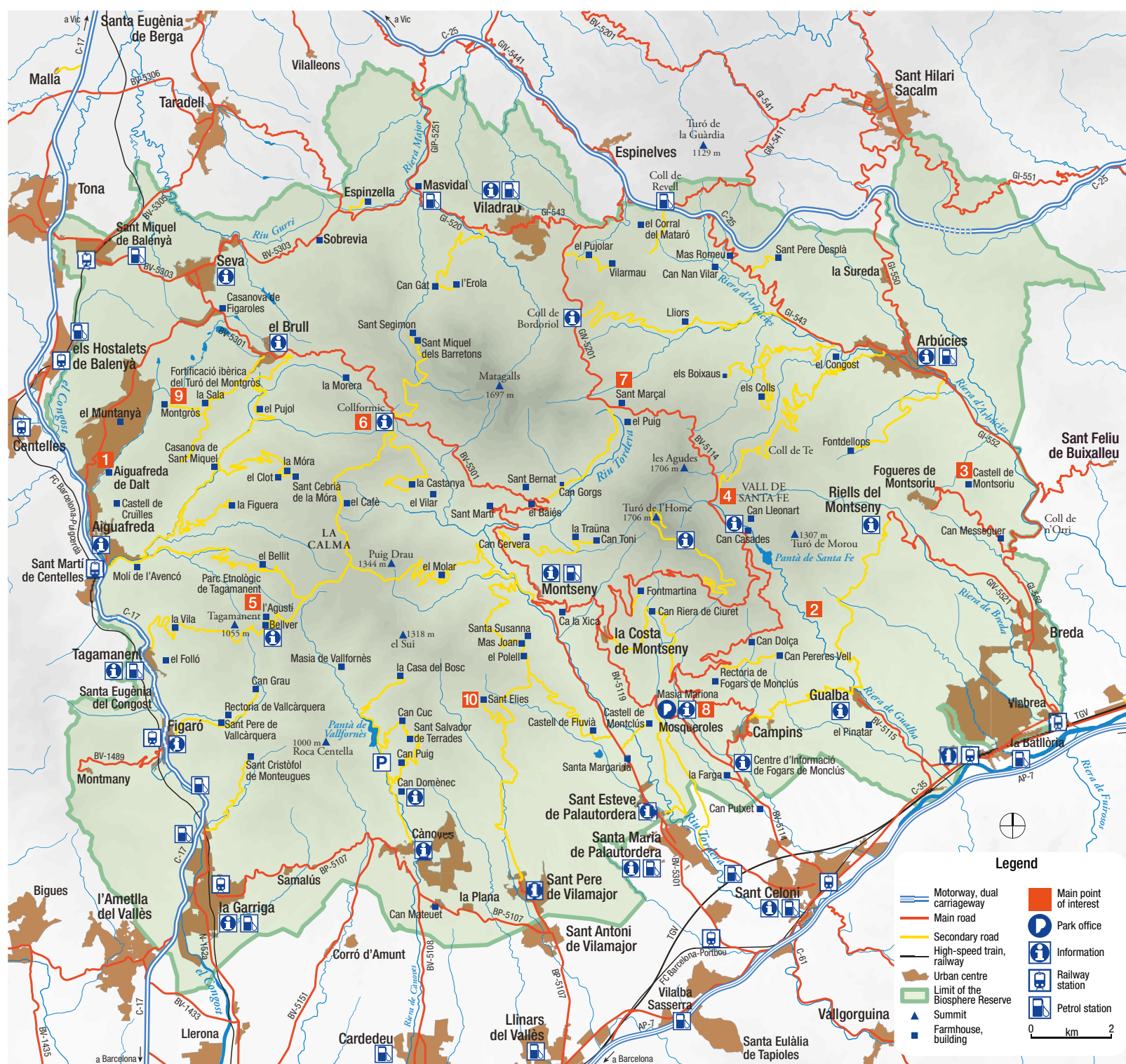
A charming hermitage with views of El Montnegre, Collserola and Montserrat.



OBSERVATIONS:

It is one of the points through which the PR-C 139 Pi Novell trail, which goes from Sant Antoni de Vilamajor to the Pla de la Calma plain, passes.

The small hermitage of Sant Elies stands majestic at 1,000 m altitude at the summit of the hill of the same name. It has a crowned nave with a barrel vault, a bell gable and a small apse. Every 25 April, the Feast of Saint Mark is honoured with a mass, an offering of bread and a communal meal.



4 Sante Fe Valley

A natural place of refuge for beech forests, fir woods and marshes.



OBSERVATIONS:

It is also home to an information centre with an exhibition and a film about the park, as well as a recreational area.

The Santa Fe valley is one of the most charming areas in the El Montseny massif, as well as being one of the entrances to the Turó de l'Home hill and a land of marshes and magnificent beech forests and fir woods. Several itineraries, such as the adapted Font del Frare trail, will allow you to discover this wonderful natural legacy.

Access

BY ROAD

AP-7 (Mediterranean motorway Sant Celoni Exit).
C-17 (Barcelona-Vic-Puigcerdà).
C-25 (Transversal arterial road: Girona-Vic-Lleida).

SUBURBAN RAILWAY SERVICES

Renfè. Tel.: (+34) 902 240 202
R2 Nord line (Airport - Maçanet-Massanes). Stops in Palautordera, Sant Celoni, Gualba, Riells and Viabrea-Breda.
R3 line (L'Hospitalet de Llobregat - Puigcerdà via Vic). Stops in La Garriga, Figaró, Sant Martí de Centelles, Centelles, Balenyà-els Hostalets and Balenyà-Tona-Seva.

BY BUS

Barcelona Bus. Tel.: (+34) 902 130 014
Stops in Aiguafreda, Canòves i Samalús, Figaró, La Garriga, Tagamanent, Gualba, Sant Celoni, Campins, Fogars de Montclús, Santa Fe, Santa Maria de Palautordera, Sant Esteve de Palautordera and Viladrau.
Hispano-Hilariense. Tel.: (+34) 972 245 012
Stops in Arbúcies, Breda, Riells i Viabrea and Sant Feliu de Buixalleu.

mobilitat.gencat.cat

Facilities

PARK OFFICE

Masia Mariona
Carretera BV-5119, km 2.5. Mosqueroles
08470 Fogars de Montclús
Tel.: (+34) 938 475 102
Email: p.montseny@diba.cat

INFORMATION POINTS AND CENTRES

Aiguafreda. Tel.: (+34) 938 440 154
El Brull. Tel.: (+34) 938 840 692
Can Casades. Tel.: (+34) 938 475 113
Canòves i Samalús. Tel.: (+34) 938 710 518
Gualba Station. Tel.: (+34) 679 589 033
Figaró-Montmany. Tel.: (+34) 618 130 668
Fogars de Montclús. Tel.: (+34) 938 475 290
La Garriga. Tel.: (+34) 610 477 823
Gualba. Can Figueres. Tel.: (+34) 937 440 481
Montseny. Tel.: (+34) 937 440 137
Riells de Montseny
Sant Celoni Tel.: (+34) 938 670 171
Sant Esteve de Palautordera. Tel.: (+34) 938 482 008
Sant Pere de Vilamajor. Tel.: (+34) 938 610 418
Seva. Tel.: (+34) 619 616 988
Tagamanent. Tel.: (+34) 938 429 323

OTHER FACILITIES

La Guardiola Recreational Area
Ctra. BV-5114 from Sant Celoni to Viladrau, km 20.2. Santa Fe de Montseny (Fogars de Montclús)
La Plana del Coll Recreational Area
Ctra. de la Costa from El Montseny to Fontmartina, km 10.8 (Fogars de Montclús)
Les Feixes del Vilar Recreational Area
Ctra. de la Costa from El Montseny to Fontmartina, km 8.5 (Fogars de Montclús)
Fontmartina Camping
Ctra. BV-5119 from Sant Celoni to the Turó de l'Home hill, km 10 (Fogars de Montclús)
Tel.: (+34) 938 475 163 | (+34) 627 678 462

Can Lleonart Nature School
Tel.: (+34) 938 475 051 | (+34) 600 445 485
La Traïna Nature School
Tel.: (+34) 938 473 059 | (+34) 934 744 678
Rectoria de Vallcàrquera Nature School
Tel.: (+34) 938 429 361
Montseny Space (PI Viladrau)
Tel.: (+34) 938 848 035
The Iberian Fortification of Montgròs
Tel.: (+34) 938 840 692
Granollers Museum of Natural Sciences (Documentation Centre)
Tel.: (+34) 938 709 651
Montseny Ethnological Museum. La Gabella (PI Arbúcies and Documentation Centre)
Tel.: (+34) 972 860 908
Tagamanent Ethnological Park. L'Agustí Museum House. El Bellver Restaurant
Tel.: (+34) 937 445 082
Casanova de Sant Miquel Youth Hostel
Forest trail from Aiguafreda to El Brull (L'Avencó stream), 4 km from Aiguafreda
Tel.: (+34) 935 141 474 | (+34) 639 569 097
El Pollell Hostel
Trail from Sant Esteve de Palautordera to Montseny (Sant Pere de Vilamajor)
Tel.: (+34) 931 033 051 | (+34) 658 764 524
Vallfornès Farmhouse Hostel
Camí de Canòves al pla de la Calma, s/n (Tagamanent). Tel.: (+34) 937 445 046
La Morera Rural Tourism
Masia La Morera. Ctra. BV-5301, km 30.5 (El Brull)
Tel.: (+34) 938 840 477 | (+34) 616 103 757

You can consult the opening times and services offered by the park facilities at:
parcs.diba.cat/web/montseny