

What is the Natural Park?



A protected natural space

- A large area (15,308 ha).
- 11 municipalities.
- 28 nature reserves (the Fageda d'en Jordà and the El Croscat and El Montsacopa volcanoes are three of them).
- The aim is to make conservation compatible with economic development.
- Protection regime as a result of the impacts of quarrying, urban growth and uncontrolled landfill disposal sites.



Exceptional natural value

- The best-preserved volcanic region on the Iberian Peninsula.
- Over 40 volcanoes that erupted in different ways: gentle (effusive) eruptions, low-level (strombolian) eruptions and highly explosive (phreatomagmatic) eruptions.
- Volcanoes that are dormant but not extinct.
- More than 20 lava flows.
- Very rich flora: 1,178 flowering plants.
- Varied vegetation with Holm oak woods, common oak woods and beech woods.
- 261 species of vertebrate animals.
- An open, balanced landscape that is unique in nature.



Territory occupied by humans

- There are 51,786 inhabitants in the region, 43,782 of whom live within the Natural Park*.
- 98% of the territory is privately owned.
- The Volcanic Region of La Garrotxa Natural Park regulates and adds dynamism to human activities.
- Human activity that is in harmony with the surroundings.



An active and diverse economy

- The region's GDP is 4% above the Catalan average.
- A dynamic and diverse economy:
 - Industry (38.5%)**
 - Construction (10.9%)**
 - Services (46.9%)**
 - Agriculture (3.7%)**
- Industry that is balanced and has a strong tradition.



Its own cultural identity

- A deep-rooted artistic tradition.
- An industry producing religious imagery that is centuries old.
- A long tradition of artistic teaching.
- Good local cuisine with a high quality natural larder.
- Entrepreneurial spirit.
- Farms that have shaped the landscape.
- Strongly-rooted popular festivals and traditions with a high element of general participation.

* Source: Statistical Institute of Catalonia (Idescat) 2005.
 ** Source: Statistical Institute of Catalonia (Idescat) 2001.

Information last updated: September 2007.

Rules and regulations for visitors



For more complete information, ask at the Park's information centres, where in addition to information leaflets you will find maps, guides and books that will help you to organise your visit.



The park has an extensive network of signposted walking trails. If you follow them, you will be able to visit the most significant spots in the area.



Most of the Natural Park is private property. Try and make sure that your visit does not disturb the people who live here.



Off-site camping is not allowed. Within the Natural Park, there are several campsites, hotels and hostels where you can spend the night.



For safety and conservation reasons, lighting fires is strictly prohibited.



The maintenance service has to work very hard to keep the most frequently visited areas clean. Always use the dustbins or take your rubbish away with you.



Catching animals and/or collecting rocks, minerals and plants are not permitted within the Natural Park.



There are some areas in which access is restricted to service personnel and inhabitants, which are very clearly marked. Access in motor vehicles to these areas is prohibited.



The park information centres can provide special authorisation to allow people with mobility problems to enter the restricted access areas in a motor vehicle.

Information Centres in the Park:

The House of Els Volcans
 Av. Santa Coloma, s/n
 17800 Olot
 Tél. (972) 26 62 02
 (972) 26 60 12

Can Serra
 (Fageda d'en Jordà)
 Ctra. Olot-Santa Pau, km 4
 Santa Pau

Can Passavent
 Volcan del Croscat
 Olot

Website: <http://www.parcscatalunya.net>
E-mail: pnzvg.dmah@gencat.net

In an emergency call: 112

If you are not using this leaflet any more please return it.



With the collaboration of:



12 places of interest to visit in the Park

The Volcanic Region of la Garrotxa Natural Park



El Volcà del Montsacopa Nature Reserve



Volcano located in the centre of the city of Olot, aligned between the volcanoes of Montolivet and La Garrinada.

Volcanic cone with crater, which is circular and centred, 120 m in diameter, of major scientific and educational interest, with zones formerly used for quarrying (closed down in the 1960s). **The church of Sant Francesc**, at the top, reconstructed in 1875.

The two watchtowers, built during the Carlist wars (second half of the 19th century) are excellent viewing points for Olot and the volcanic region of La Garrotxa.

Access: From the Nou Park, signposted walking trail no. 17 can be followed, which, on a 5-km route through the city, leads to the crater in some 50 minutes. Access is also possible from Olot cemetery car park, following the same trail n°17, for some 400 m (25 min) or from the Municipal Tourist Information Office (45 min).

Olot Old Town



The ancient structure of the streets has been preserved in the old town, in which various historical buildings and monuments constructed after the earthquakes of 1427 and 1428 can be seen.

Tourist Information Office, workhouse building, c. Hospici 8. Tel. 972 26 01 41. Winter opening hours: Monday to Friday 9 am - 2 pm and 5 - 7 pm; Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and 5 - 7 pm; Sundays and public holidays, 11 am - 2 pm. Summer opening hours: please ask at the Office.

La Garrotxa Regional Museum tel. 972 27 91 30. Opening hours October - June: weekdays 10 am - 1 pm and 3 - 6 pm; Saturdays 11 am - 2 pm and 4 - 7 pm; Sundays and public holidays 11 am - 2 pm. July - September: Monday to Saturday 11 am - 2 pm and 4 - 7 pm; Sundays and public holidays 11 am - 2 pm. Closed Mondays. Exhibitions on the history and art of the region from the end of the 18th century to the mid-20th century.

Churches of La Mare de Déu del Tura and Sant Esteve consisting of constructions in different styles from the Middle Ages to the 16th century.

Renaissance cloisters of El Carme from the late 16th century.

Parochial Museum with El Greco's Christ Embracing the Cross (by appointment, call 972 26 04 74).

Art Nouveau Houses Route. **Trincheria House Museum** tel. 972 27 77. Opening hours: 11 am - 2 pm

and 5 - 7 pm; Sundays and public holidays 11 am - 2 pm. 18th century ancestral home of the Trincheria family, in which the furniture has been preserved. The ornamental crib in the house can also be visited.

Museum of Saints (1891, Neo-Gothic building, by architect Joaquim Codina). Opening hours: weekdays 10 am - 1 pm and 3 - 6 pm; Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm and 4 - 7 pm; Sundays and public holidays 11 am - 2 pm. Closed Mondays.

Access: The old town of Olot can be reached easily from the various car parks in the centre.

The basalt lava flows of Sant Joan les Fonts



At Molí Fondo, as many as three lava flows that flowed down this stretch of river consecutively can be seen.

The superimposing of the three lava flows originating from different points of eruption.

The morphology of cooling lava: columns and slabs.

Riverbank woodland.

Industrial architecture.

The exploitation of water.

Access: Trail 16 begins at Plaça Major square. Moll Fondo and Boscarró are 800 m away (20 min) and the whole trail is 5.5 km long (1 hr 50 min).

The Nou Park



The Nou Park is a wonderful country estate, now a municipal park, in which the Torre Castanys, an Art Nouveau building, is located. We recommend a visit in order to obtain information on the park, prepare for the time you want to spend in this protected natural space and get to know the vegetation that is characteristic of the Olot plain.

Volcanic Region of La Garrotxa National Park Information Centre, with publications and documentation about the Park and video projections, and housing the Park's educational services centre. Tel. 972 26 62 02. Information Centre opening hours: weekdays 9 am - 2 pm and 4 - 6 pm; Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 6 pm and public holidays 10 am - 2 pm.

Volcano Museum on volcanism, earthquakes and the natural environments of La Garrotxa. The museum has publications and an audiovisual display with an earthquake simulator. Tel. 972 26 67 62. Museum opening hours: October - June, weekdays 10 am - 2 pm and 3 - 6 pm; Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 7 pm; Sundays and public holidays 10 am - 2 pm. July - September, weekdays 10 am

- 2 pm and 4 - 7 pm; Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 7 pm; Sundays and public holidays 10 am - 2 pm. Closed Mondays. **Botanical garden** with a spectacular oak wood of common oak (*Quercus robur*), listed as a monumental grove, and the La Garrotxa Medicinal Plant Garden.

Access: Vehicle access is possible to the Nou Park car park. On foot from the Tourist Office in Olot, follow walking trail n°17, which is signposted. It is 1.4 km (25 min) to Nou Park on a route through the city.

Xenacs Area



The Xenacs area is managed by Les Preses Town Council. It is open at weekends and on public holidays and in summer, from 10 am until dusk. Access is closed on weekdays and visits must be arranged in advance by calling 972 69 20 23.

Municipal information point

Puig Rodó viewing point at 909 m is an excellent viewing point of the volcanic region of La Garrotxa, with thematic walking trails.

Access: Can be reached in a vehicle (except coaches) and on foot along walking trail n°10 to the Xenacs area and Puig Rodó. 1 hour, with a climb of 500 m.

Pedra Tosca Park



A rural area that was exploited by humans and later abandoned. This spot was created in order to recover, respect and consolidate the actions carried out by our ancestors some 150 years ago. The restoration and recovery of this area has been awarded the Rosa Barba European Award for Landscape Architecture.

Maze of paths, dry stone walls, cleared land and huts that is the result of extreme necessity and human persistence in modifying an exceptionally hostile territory.

Signposted trails. Opening hours: the information area is open at weekends from 10 am until dusk. The guide service is available throughout the week except Mondays and Tuesdays. Tel. 972 19 51 79.

Access: Vehicle access is possible from Olot in the direction of Les Preses, approximately 1.5 km, where there is a car park, and on foot, leaving Olot at Les Fonts de Sant Roc on the Olot-Girona cycle path. Length: approximately 30 minutes, or approximately 40 minutes from the old station at Les Preses.

Fageda d'en Jordà Nature Reserve



The Fageda d'en Jordà, one of the 26 nature reserves in the Natural Park, grows on the làva flow from the El Croscat volcano, which extends over the municipalities of Santa Pau, Olot and Les Preses.

The Volcanic Region of La Garrotxa National Park Information Centre. Tel. 972 26 60 12. Opening hours: weekdays and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and 3 - 5 pm. July and August: 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 6 pm. Public holidays 10 am - 3 pm.

Beech wood (*Fagus sylvatica*), exceptional due to its growth on the lava flow from the El Croscat volcano, on a flat area with gentle slopes (*tossols*) at an altitude of 550 m. A source of inspiration for artists such as Joan Maragall, who wrote the poem that would make it famous (there is a monolith dedicated to the poet at the beginning of walking trail n°2).

Access: Can be reached on foot along trail n°2 (a 30-min walk through the beech wood from the Can Serra car park, km 4.0 on the road from Olot to Santa Pau, on the left-hand side). From Olot, take trail 3, which goes to the beech wood (4 km, 1 hr 30 min). Can also be reached on foot from Santa Pau (5.2 km, 1 hr 45 min). There is no entry to the nature reserve for motor vehicles.

Basalt escarpment of Castellfolit de la Roca



The buildings in the village are constructed mainly from volcanic material. The paving slabs and the street furniture in the old town are made from basalt, a rock that is formed when volcanic lava cools.

A 40-m high **basalt escarpment** formed by lava from 2 flows from volcanoes in Olot and Begudà.

Morphology of basalt depending on the cooling of the lava: columns and slabs.

Old town from the mediaeval period, with buildings constructed from volcanic material, narrow streets with squares, and viewing points.

Old church-museum: cultural centre with temporary exhibitions and a panoramic view of the old town centre and the Fluvià valley from the bell tower. **Industrial architecture** on the riverbank. **Industrial exploitation** of water: dams, canals and mills.

Access: Walking trail n°13, which is signposted (1.5 km, 40 min), begins at the car park at the junction of the N-260 and the Oix road.

Estada Juvinyà mediaeval castle



The centre is a space in which visitors can find information on the main attractions and places of interest that make up the heritage of Sant Joan les Fonts and the La Garrotxa region.

Fortified house (14th century), defence tower (12th century).

Mediaeval canal and modern canal. **Model of the flour mill** that was in the house.

Audiovisuals of Sant Joan les Fonts and La Garrotxa.

Interactive displays. Opening hours: Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am - 1 pm and 5 - 8 pm. Public holidays 10 am - 2 pm. For information and to arrange group visits, call 972 29 05 91.

Access: Vehicle access is possible (with the exception of coaches, which should park near the Plaça Major) to just in front of Estada Juvinyà mediaeval castle, which is located some 5 km from Olot, in the direction of La Canya and Sant Joan les Fonts; on entering the village, turn left at the first set of traffic lights. Located beside the Fluvià River, the defence tower stands out with its Catalan flag.

Volcà del Croscat Nature Reserve



The clay pits area of the El Croscat volcano were restored in 1995 with the aim of putting the deteriorated area back in order, minimising the impact on the landscape, preventing erosion and guaranteeing public access for educational purposes. Group visits by appointment on 972 26 60 12.

Volcanic Region of La Garrotxa National Park Information Centre at Can Passavent, at the entrance to the clay pits, with an exhibition on the El Croscat volcano. Opening hours: weekdays and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and 3 - 5 pm. July and August 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 6 pm. Public holidays 10 am - 3 pm.

Volcanic cone with its chipped crater in the shape of a horseshoe.

Lava flow of over 6 km in length.

Volcanic cone entirely covered with vegetation with the exception of the clay pits, former quarries cut in a way that allows the internal structure of the volcano to be seen. The impact caused by the quarries led to social protests in 1975 and the subsequent protection of the volcanic area in 1982.

The restoration of the clay pits won the FAD prize for decorative art designs.

Access: Walking trail n°15, Clay pits of the El Croscat volcano (2.9 km, 50

min), leaves from the car park at Santa Margarida, on the road from Olot to Santa Pau, km 6.1, on the right-hand side. Trail n°1, Fageda d'en Jordà-Santa Margarida volcano-El Croscat volcano (11 km, 4 h), enables the clay pits to be accessed from the area of Can Serra (Fageda d'en Jordà) on a route of 5 km, 1 hr 40 min there and back. No entry for motor vehicles.

Santa Pau Old Town



A walk through Santa Pau old town allows visitors to see unique buildings and to the east, offers splendid views over the Ser valley. On a clear day, it is possible to see the Gulf of Roses and the sea.

Mediaeval town

Castle built in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Porticoed square or Firal dels Bous, which provided shelter for the market and which was given to the town in 1297.

Gothic church of Santa Maria, with a single nave.

Viewing point over the Ser valley.

Access: Located 9 km from Olot, the car park is at the entrance to the village on the left.

Sant Feliu de Pallerols Old Town



The old town of Sant Feliu de Pallerols and its surroundings deserve a relaxed, unhurried visit. Twelve walking trails cover the most interesting spots in the municipality.

The lava flows of the Brugen river from the eruption of the El Traiter volcano. **The Sant Marc volcano**, 20 min from the town centre.

The Brugent river, which is in a very good state of conservation.

Group of historical and architectural elements from the 12th - 13th centuries.

The houses of La Sagrera and La Cellerà.

The marketplace

The mediaeval bridges

The La Conqueta mill

The Gros mill with its dams.

The ancestral homes of Can Trias and Can Viola.

The Art Nouveau building of Can Casas.

Access: There is a car park in the station square and the different trails leave from there. Walking trail n°18, Old Town (1.3 km, 40 min) includes the most unique of the buildings. Cycle path Olot-Girona.