What is the Natural Park?

A protected natural space
- A large area (15,308 ha).
- 11 municipalities.
- 28 nature reserves (the Fageda d'en Jorda 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.

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.
- Vast 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 51,886 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 (38.2%)*.
  - 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 (1999).
** Source: Statistical Institute of Catalonia (2000).

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, hostels and hotels 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 is 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 centre 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 the Volcanoes
Av. Santa Coloma, s/n
17800 Olot
Tél. (972) 26 60 12
Web site: http://www.parquescatalunya.net
E-mail: parques.cat@gmail.com

In an emergency call: 112

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

Parc Natural de la Zona Volcànica de la Garrotxa
Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de Medi Ambient i Habitatatge

With the collaboration of:

Turisme Garrotxa
El Volcán del Montsantoca Nature Reserve

Volcano located in the centre of the city of Olot and between the townships of Montsionell and La Garrigosa. Volcanic cone 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 13th century (second half of the 20th century) are excellent viewpoints for Olot and the volcanic region of La Garrigosa. Access: From the Nou Park, signposted walk 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 no.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 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. Hosp de T, 972 28 01 41. Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 9 am - 2 pm and 5 - 7 pm; Sundays 10 am - 2 pm and 5 - 7 pm. City hall, 11 am - 2 pm and public holidays, 11 am - 2 pm. Summer opening hours: please ask at the Office.

La Garrotxa Regional Museum tel. 972 27 91 83. Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 10 am - 1 pm and 5 - 7 pm; Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and 5 - 7 pm. July: Monday - Saturday 10 am - 2 pm and 5 - 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 dels Tura and Sant Esteve consisting of constructions in different styles from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Renaissance cloisters of El Carro from the late 16th century. Parochial Museum with El Greco's Christ Embracing the Cross (by appointment, call 972 28 07 47). Art Nouveau Housers Route. Trincheras Housers Museum, tel. 972 27 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 de la Garrigosa family, in which the furniture has been preserved. The ornamental crib in the house is listed as a monumental group, and the La Garrotxa Medicinal Plant Garden.

Vagancia Museum (1891), Neo-Gothic style, by architect, Lluís Vidal. Opening hours: weekdays 10 am - 1 pm and 3 - 6 pm; Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm and 3 - 6 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 Moli Fondo, as many as three lava flows that flowed down this stretch of river consecutively can be seen.

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

The morphology of cooling lava: coloumbial emplacements on the riverbank.

Riverbank woodland. Industrial architecture:

The extraction of water.

Access: Trail 16 begins at Plaça Major square. Moli Fondo and Boscorra 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, which is a nature park. In which the Torre Castanyas, 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 there. Visit the nature reserve 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 how to get to the educational service centre. Tel. 972 26 62 02. Information Centre opening hours: weekdays 9 am - 2 pm and 4 - 6 pm; Saturdays 9 am - 2 pm and 4 - 6 pm and public holidays 10 am - 2 pm.

Volcano Museum on volcanism, earthquakes and the natural environment of the Olot-Garrigosa region. The museum has publications and an audiovisual display with an earthrise simulator. Tel. 972 26 62 73. Museum opening hours: October - June, 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. 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.

Access: Vehicle access is possible from the Nou Park car park or by accessing the Tourist Office in Olot, follow walking trail no. 11, which is signposted, it is 1.4 km (25 min) to Nou Park on a route through the city.

Fageda d'en Jordà Nature Reserve

The Fageda d'en Jordà, one of the 26 nature reserves in the National Park, gives rise to the most visited places of interest that make up the heritage of Sant Joan les Fonts and the La Garrotxa region.

The Volcanic Region of La Garrotxa National Park Information Centre. Tel. 972 26 60 12. Opening hours: weekdays and Sundays, 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 7 pm; July and August: 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 7 pm; Beech wood (Fagus sylvatica), exceptional due to its growth on the lava flow from the El Crocut volano, on a flat area with gentle slopes (tossi) at an altitude of 650 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 no. 2).

Access: Can be reached on foot from the Army Base, 30 minutes walk through the beach wood from the Can Serra car park, km 4.0 on the road from Olot to Sant Joan les Fonts, on the left-hand side. From Olot, take trail 3, which goes to the beach, 1.5 km, 1 hr 30 min. It can also be reached on foot from Santa Pau, (2.5 km, 1 hr 45 min). There is no entry to the nature reserve for motor vehicles.

Volcà dels Crosat Natural Reserve

The clay pits area of the El Crocat volcanos were restored in 1985 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. Groups visit by appointment on 29 Thursdays of the month.

Volcanic Region of La Garrotxa National Park Information Centre at Can Passetz, at the entrance to the city, with an exhibition on the El Crocat volcanos. Opening hours: weekdays and Sundays 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 7 pm; July and August 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 6 pm. Public holidays 10 am - 2 pm.

Volcano cone with its chipped crater in the shape of a horsehoe.

La Garrotxa cycle path, with vegetation with the exception of the clay pits, former quarries cut in a way that allows the internal structure of the volcanos to be visible. Used by the quilars led to social protests in 1975 and the subsequent protection of the area in 1982.

The restoration of the clay pits was the FAD prize for decorative art design.

Access: Walking trail n°15, Clay pits of the El Crocat volcanos (2.9 km, 50 min), leaves from the car park at Santa Margarida, on the road from Olot to Santa Margarida, km 6.50, at the roundabout. Trail n°1, Fageda d'en Jordà South of Maigana volcanos-El Crocut volcanos (11 km, 45 min), enables the clay pits to be accessed from the area of Can Serra (Fageda de Jordà) on a route of about 1 hr 40 min there and back. No entry for motor vehicles.

Pelicana]

The clay pits area of the El Crocut volcanos were restored in 1985 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.

Volcanic Region of La Garrotxa National Park Information Centre at Can Passetz, at the entrance to the city, with an exhibition on the El Crocut volcanos. Opening hours: weekdays and Sundays 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 7 pm; July and August 10 am - 2 pm and 4 - 6 pm. Public holidays 10 am - 2 pm.

Volcano cone with its chipped crater in the shape of a horsehoe.

La Garrotxa cycle path, with vegetation with the exception of the clay pits, former quarries cut in a way that allows the internal structure of the volcanos to be visible. Used by the quilars led to social protests in 1975 and the subsequent protection of the area in 1982.

The restoration of the clay pits was the FAD prize for decorative art design.

Access: Walking trail n°15, Clay pits of the El Crocut volcanos (2.9 km, 50 min), leaves from the car park at Santa Margarida, on the road from Olot to Santa Margarida, km 6.50, at the roundabout. Trail n°1, Fageda d’en Jordà South of Maigana volcanos-El Crocut volcanos (11 km, 45 min), enables the clay pits to be accessed from the area of Can Serra (Fageda de Jordà) on a route of about 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 the main touristic spots of the town. It crosses the old campera over the Ser Valley. On a clear day, it is possible to see the Gulf of Roses and the Balearic Islands.

Medieval town Castle built in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Postern square or Fils dels Burus, which provided shelter for the market and which was given to the town in 1297.

Gothic church of Santa Maria, with a single nave and a lateral viewing point over the Ser valley.

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 Brugu river from the eruption of the El Tractor volcano, which is about 20 km from the town centre.

The Brugu 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 Cañera.

The marketplace.

The medieval bridges.

The La Coma quilla mill.

The ancestral homes of Can Tras and Can Cas.

The Art Nouveau building of Can Cas.

Access: There is a car park in the station square and in different trails leave from there. Walking trail n°18, Old Town (13 km, 40 min) includes the most unique of the buildings. Cycle path Olot-Girona.