

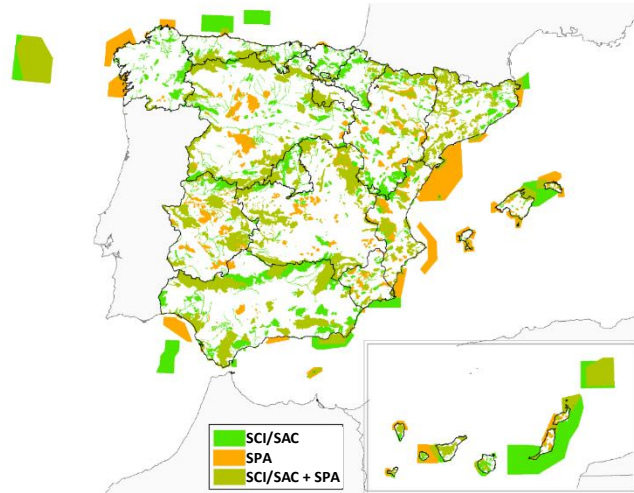
## La Xarxa Natura 2000 a Espanya

Thanks to its rich biodiversity, Spain is the EU country that contributes the largest area to the Natura 2000 Network, with 17% of the total.

Spain is home to the highest levels of biodiversity in Europe: 30% of fauna and flora species and 51% of habitat types of Community interest, as well as 65% of the continent's birds.

In Spain, 1468 SCIs/SACs and 658 SPAs\* have been declared, covering more than 27% of Spain's land area and nearly 9% of our marine waters.

\*Based on data from January 2021



## To find out more

### The Natura 2000 Network in Spain:

[www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/espacios-prottegidos/red-natura-2000](http://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/espacios-prottegidos/red-natura-2000)

[ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm)

### Scheme for the Recognition of Nature-based Tourism Sustainability in Natura 2000 Network:

[www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad/sistemareconocimientosostenibilidadturismo\\_tcm30-431216.pdf](http://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad/sistemareconocimientosostenibilidadturismo_tcm30-431216.pdf)

### The Ecotourism Club in Spain:

[soyecoturista.com](http://soyecoturista.com)

### Natura 2000 Site links:

<http://xarxanatura.es>

<http://www.balearslifeposidonia.eu/index.php>

<https://ideib.caib.es/posidonia/>

<https://cutt.ly/thdCQZc>



# Scheme for the Recognition of Nature-based Tourism Sustainability in Natura 2000 Network



## EAST COAST OF MENORCA Special Conservation Areas (SAC) Special Bird Protection Areas (SPA)



## Why should biodiversity be conserved ?

The Earth's incredible variety of life forms provides a number of critical ecosystem services, such as the production of food and medicine, protection from floods and droughts, or the ability to adapt to climate change. The loss of these life forms entails enormous costs to society, far +greater than those required for their conservation.

The **Natura 2000 Network** is the European Union's main commitment to biodiversity conservation. It is the largest network of protected areas in the world and covers almost one fifth of the EU's land area.

Its objective is to contribute to ensuring the conservation and long-term survival of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora in the territory of the European Union, helping to halt the loss of biodiversity and to sustain human life and activities.

It is made up of two types of protected areas:

- **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**, which contain natural habitat types or species of EU-wide interest. SACs are declared after Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) when their management and conservation instruments are approved.
- **Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPAs)**, which are home to the wild bird species to be conserved in the European Union.

## Scheme for the Recognition of Nature-based Tourism Sustainability in Natura 2000 Network

This voluntary scheme distinguishes between Natura 2000 sites that have integrated sustainability and conservation of natural values of Community interest into the management of their public use, and tourism businesses that meet these management requirements by contributing to conservation in a practical way.

It is based on the collaboration and commitment between tourism entrepreneurs and the managers of the Natura 2000 sites in whose environment they operate, which makes it possible:

- For entrepreneurs, to receive specific training on the values and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site, enabling them to shape their business around sustainability, ensuring the preservation of the resources that sustain them, and allowing them to better convey its value to their customers.
- For visitors, to have a better experience based on the knowledge of the natural values that are the object of their visit, and the satisfaction of contributing to their conservation with all the guarantees of sustainability.
- For managers of the sites, to improve the management of their public use and to be sure that the nature tourism activity carried out at their Natura 2000 site is compatible with the favourable conservation status of its natural values, and contributes to sustainable local development.

### ES0000232 La Mola y s'Albufera de Fornells ES5310070 Punta Redona - Arenal d'en Castell

The SAC/SPA La Mola and s'Albufera de Fornells boasts a great diversity of habitats of interest, including the cliffs of La Mola, temporary ponds and coastal lagoons such as the Salines Velles, the Salines Noves and s'Albufera des Comte, wetlands and salt marshes, and extensive pine forests and caves, including the Cova Polida. The area is home to the red kite (*Milvus milvus*), the fish hawk (*Pandion haliaetus*), the Cory's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) and various species of steppe, aquatic, and wading birds such as the Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). The local and endangered flora is also very diverse, with the most outstanding species being the socarrell gros (*Anthyllis hystrix*), the Menorcan dafne (*Daphne rodriguezii*) and the Balearic peony (*Paeonia cambessedesii*). Along its eastern coast is the SAC Punta Redona-Arenal d'en Castell, which, although predominantly marine, also includes a small strip of land with typical coastal cliff habitats. This SAC is home to important *Posidonia oceanica* meadows that form small structures of great ecological value and which coexist with another marine phanerogam, the slender seagrass (*Cymodocea nodosa*). Also of great ecological value is the Illot d'en Tusqueta, where the Balearic wall lizard (*Podarcis lilfordi* var. *Sargantanae*) lives and where the Audouin's gull (*Ichthyaeetus audouinii*) occasionally nests.



### ES0000233 D'Addaia a s'Albufera, ES0000234 S'Alubfera des Grau, ES531071 Cala en Brut

These SACs/SPAs have extraordinary ecological and scenic value and therefore are part of the s'Albufera de Grau's Natural Park. In the Addaia and Favàritx area, we can point to the dune environments of the beaches of Mongofra, Presili and Morella, the Addaia salt marshes and the Morella ponds, Ets Armaris and the Cos des Síndic. In Es Grau, we have the Albufera, which is the most extensive wetland in Menorca, and hosts the largest number of birds. The flora is equally rich with various endangered, vulnerable and/or local species such as *Malva micans* subsp. *minoricensis*, *Apium Bermejoi*, *Carduncellus balearicus*, as well as the aforementioned *Anthyllis hystrix*, dafne and the Balearic peony. The islets of Addaia, Àguilas, Carbó and Carbonet are home to the Addayae variety of Balearic lizard, and on illot d'en Mel and Illa d'en Colom we find the Brauni variety. At more than 60 hectares, the latter island is the largest of those surrounding Menorca and, in addition to its rich flora, is notable for its great diversity of local terrestrial invertebrates. The sea beds of the three areas are also extraordinarily beautiful and rich, with *Posidonia* meadows that form reefs, a wide variety of algae of the protected genus *Cystoseria sensu lato*, and extensive *Cymodocea nodosa* grasslands.



### ES0000235 De s'Albufera a la Mola ES5310072 Caleta de Binillautí

La Mola de Maó is the most remarkable enclave in the area. It is a limestone promontory which, apart from its well-known military fortress, is home to the largest Menorcan colony of the endangered Balearic shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*). In the interior of this SAC/SPA you find the typical mixed habitat of the island of Menorca, which alternates cultivated areas with marinas of scrublands of Menorcan green olive tree and wild olive groves. An important colony of Cory's shearwater also nests on the cliffs of La Mola. As for the flora, the local species *Vicia bifoliolata*, the only non-introduced population of *Apium bermejoi* on the planet, the aquatic fern *Marsilea strigosa*, present in some of the temporary ponds of Sa Mesquida, and the aforementioned Daphne and Anthyllis, stand out. Also of interest is the population of the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*), the Mediterranean tortoise (*Testudo hermannii*) and the presence of up to five species of bats. For its part, the small marine area of Caleta de Binillautí is home to an extensive and valuable meadow of *Posidonia*.

With your visit to these areas, in addition to getting to know and appreciate their value, you will also be contributing to their conservation and to the sustainable development of the area.

