

## 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.

## To find out more

### The Natura 2000 Network in Spain:

[www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/espacios-protectados/red-natura-2000](http://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/espacios-protectados/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 Network's website:

<http://xarxanatura.es/ficha/es5310035-area-marina-del-nord-de-menorcalic/>

### Booking an ecological anchorage and anchoring guidelines:

<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



Menorca's North Shore Marine Area,  
Natura 2000 protected area (ES5310035)



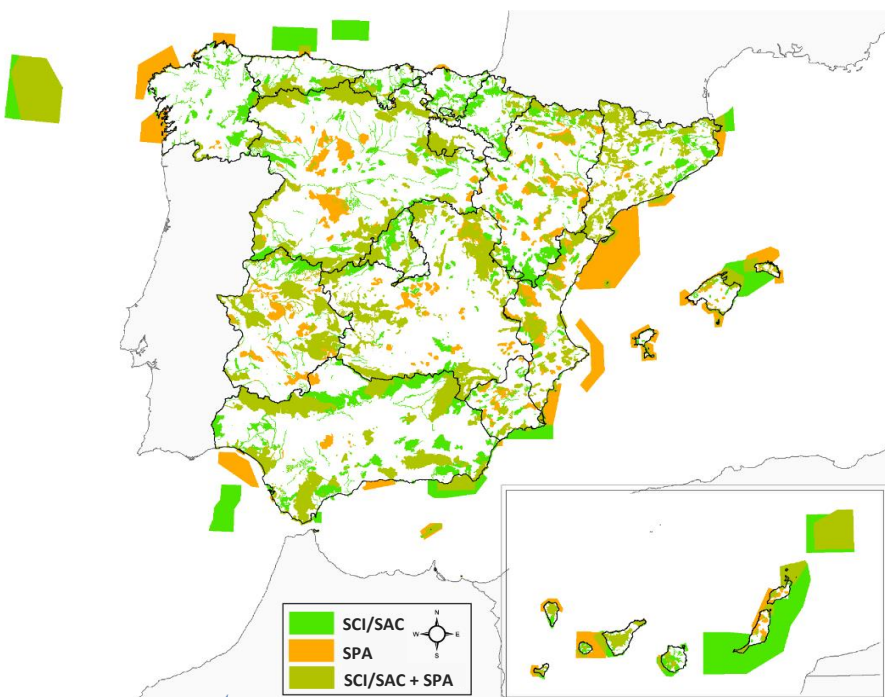
## The Natura 2000 Network in Spain

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



## 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.

## SAC Menorca's North Shore Marine Area (ES5310035)



The importance of this **SAC**, stems from its Habitats of Community Interest (HIC) such as HIC 1160 "large coves and shallow bays", and priority HIC 1120 "Posidonia meadows". In turn, the area helps protect various species of Community Interest such as the shag, the Cory's shearwater, the Audouin's gull, the osprey, the bottlenose dolphin, and the loggerhead turtle. The geological diversity of the shore and frequent waves have created a rugged coastline that allows for the coexistence of a great diversity of habitats.

In addition, since the **Marine Reserve of the North of Menorca** is a designated SAC, it is home to a great abundance and variety of fish. The bays of Fornells and Sanitja have an exceptional ecological value, although they are not free from environmental pressures and threats. The sea bed is primarily characterized by Posidonia meadows, which in some areas form real reefs that can even reach the surface; other marine phanerogams such as the *Cymodocea nodosa* and *Zoostera noltii*, rock reefs; beds of rhodoliths or maërl (free living coralline red algae); coralligenous or sand. The site has a Management Plan approved by Decree 29/2007 and is part of the core zone of the **Menorca Biosphere Reserve**. Through your visit, in addition to getting to know and appreciate these riches, you will also be contributing to the conservation of these important sites.