

# CABO DE GATA-NIJAR

## NATURA 2000 NETWORK

### UNDERSTANDING FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MARINE SITES



## THE LIFE A-MAR PROJECT

KNOW, PROTECT AND LOVE THE SITES OF NATURA 2000 NETWORK

The LIFE A-MAR Natura 2000 project has the objective of spreading and promoting good conservation practices in Natura 2000 Network marine sites. For that, communication and awareness actions that specifically target the Mediterranean marine sites in the Natura 2000 Network are undertaken.

This project, which includes Fundación Biodiversidad of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge as a partner, will implement a marine navigation campaign through 10 marine sites of the Nature 2000 Network, developing capacity building and and ocean literacy activities at each stop.

### OBJECTIVES



Increase the information available about these sites and promote their protection through citizen awareness initiatives.



Expand awareness of the existence of protected marine sites.



Promote good practices and sustainable behaviours in these sites.



Provide training for managers and users of the Natura 2000 Network marine sites.



Promote an active citizenship in the conservation of nature.

## NATURA 2000 NETWORK



### THE MAIN INSTRUMENT FOR NATURE CONSERVATION IN EUROPE

The Natura 2000 Network covers over 18% of land surface in the European Union and over 9% of its marine territories. It's the main instrument for nature conservation in the European Union.

In Spain, this network comprises 27,3% of land surface and has already surpassed 15,8% of marine surface, becoming one of the countries that has contributed the most in Europe.

### NATURA 2000 NETWORK SITES IN THE SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN

128 marine or maritime-terrestrial sites

In front of the Andalusian coasts, there are 25 marine there are 15 marine **Natura 2000 Network sites**, managed by both autonomous community and the General State Administration.

More information:



LIFE A-MAR



#LIFEAMAR



VICEPRESIDENCIA  
TERCERA DEL GOBIERNO  
MINISTERIO  
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA  
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO





















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# BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The protection of these marine areas provides multiple services that contribute to welfare.

|            |  |  |   |  |   |  |   |
|------------|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| SUPPLY     | FOOD / FISHING<br>          |  | SCIENTIFIC/MEDICAL RESOURCES<br> |  | RAW MATERIALS<br>      |  | ORNAMENTAL RESOURCES<br> |
| REGULATION | WATER QUALITY<br>           | BEACH MAINTENANCE<br>         | OXYGEN LIBERATION<br>            | MARINE PROCESSES REGULATION<br> | CLIMATE REGULATION<br> | TEMPERATURE AND SALINITY REGULATION<br> |   |
| SUPPORT    | LIFECYCLE CONSERVATION<br>  | BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION<br> |   | BIOMASS GENERATION<br>          |   | CARBON SEQUESTRATION<br>                |   |
| CULTURAL   | PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE<br> | TOURISM AND LEISURE<br>       |   | LANDSCAPES / INSPIRATION<br>    |   | TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES<br>              |   |

# CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR

 [parcsnaturals.gencat.cat](https://parcsnaturals.gencat.cat)

Located in Almería, it stands out as Andalusia's first marine-terrestrial park, protecting more than 50,000 hectares of land and marine areas. Its rocky and sandy seabeds are home to a rich diversity of flora and fauna adapted to its arid climate. It is crucial for migratory and resident birds and contains key marine habitats such as *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, essential for the conservation of marine biodiversity.

THIS AREA IS DESIGNATED AS A SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA FOR BIRDS (SPA), A SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC), A BIOSPHERE RESERVE, A GLOBAL GEOPARK, AND A SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREA OF IMPORTANCE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (SPAMI).



## IN THIS SITE YOU CAN FIND A WIDE VARIETY OF SPECIES, INCLUDING:

### Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)

This cetacean is known for its robust body and gray skin with light scars that become more pronounced with age. It can grow up to 4 meters in length and feeds primarily on squid and fish. They are social animals that tend to live in groups and exhibit curious and playful behavior.

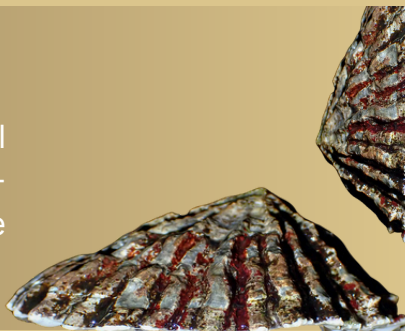


### Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

It is the most common marine turtle in the Mediterranean. It makes long migration voyages between its feeding zones and the beaches where it lays its eggs. In Spain, they usually nest on the Mediterranean coast, especially in Catalonia, the Valencian Community and the Balearic Islands.

### Ferruginous limpet (*Patella ferruginea*)

It is one of the most endangered invertebrate species. Its shell can exceed 10 cm in diameter and it inhabits the upper mid-coastal floor, near mean sea level. It has a short reproductive cycle, spending more than half the year in sexual dormancy.



### Posidonia beds (*Posidonia oceanica*)

A marine plant found only in the Mediterranean. Like terrestrial species, it has roots, stems, leaves and flowers. The large meadows it forms provide oxygen to the waters and are a perfect hiding place for various marine species to lay their eggs.

### Red gorgonian (*Paramuricea clavata*)

Also known as "sea fans," gorgonians are colonies of organisms that develop on a robust skeleton. Working in groups allows them to have a larger area to capture their favorite food, plankton. They are extremely essential in the Mediterranean Sea, as their structures serve as resting places and refuges for other animals.



# WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN I DO?

The practice and development of activities that are compatible with the conservation of the natural values for which the areas have been protected are allowed, such as:



# RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES

- **Minimize pollution.** Don't throw waste into the environment and reduce, reuse, and recycle, especially plastics, ensuring they don't end up in the sea. Dispose of your own waste in the nearest containers.
- **Respect local wildlife.** Don't feed or disturb wild animals. Observe without interfering.
- **Protect ecosystems.** Do not collect shells, stones, or organisms; they are crucial to the ecosystem.
- **Permitted activities.** Participate only in authorized activities that don't compromise the habitat. It is forbidden to cross the countryside and to climb the Monsul dune and the Fossil dune of Los Escullos.
- **Report incidents.** Inform the authorities of animals in distress or if you observe illegal activities.
- **Responsible anchoring in Posidonia meadows.** Avoid anchoring over Posidonia meadows, as anchoring can damage this important habitat.
- **Diving in underwater caves.** When diving, follow the specific rules, decalogues, and established guides. Do not touch or remove any rock or biological formations and minimize disturbance to the environment inside the cave.
- **Use of recreational drones.** The use of recreational drones is prohibited in this area to protect wildlife, preserve the tranquility of the environment, and ensure visitor safety.
- **Vehicle overnight stay.** Overnight stays of vehicles are prohibited outside urban areas unless in specially designated zones, such as campsites and motorhome areas.