# MONTGÓ-CAP DE SANT ANTONI

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA

# NATURA 2000 NETWORK

## UNDERSTANDING FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MARINE SITES

**Más información:**

LIFE A-MAR

# LIFEAMAR

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
VICEPRESIDENCIA TERCERA DEL GOBIERNO
MINISTERIO PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO
Fundación Biodiversidad

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# 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 on 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 navegation 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 Comunitat Valenciana coasts, there are 22 marine Natura 2000 Network sites,** managed by both the autonomous community and the General State Administration.

# BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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

**SUPPLY**

- FOOD / FISHING
- SCIENTIFIC/MEDICAL RESOURCES
- RAW MATERIALS
- ORNAMENTAL RESOURCES

**REGULATION**

- WATER QUALITY
- BEACH MAINTENANCE
- OXYGEN LIBERATION
- MARINE PROCESSES REGULATION
- CLIMATE REGULATION
- TEMPERATURE AND SALINITY REGULATION

**SUPPORT**

- LIFECYCLE CONSERVATION
- BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
- BIOMASS GENERATION
- CARBON SEQUESTRATION

**CULTURAL**

- PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE
- TOURISM AND LEISURE
- LANDSCAPES / INSPIRATION
- TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

# MONTGÓ-CAP DE SANT ANTONI

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Located between the municipalities of Xàbia and Denia, the Cap de San Antoni is part of the Montgó Massif Natural Park. Beyond its impressive cliffs, in its prolongation towards the sea, this beautiful place is composed of rocky and sandy bottoms characterized by extraordinary marine biodiversity. When diving, we can find small invertebrates such as anemones and limpets, as well as large creatures like moray eels and groupers.

The wide variety of the evironments present in Cap de Sant Antoni allows the emergence of a significant number of benthic communities, some of which are of great ecological interest.

Sea turtles, dolphins and whales are also frequently encountered.

THIS AREA HAS BEEN DECLARATED AS A **SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA FOR BIRDS (SPA).**

IN THIS SITE YOU CAN FIND

# A WIDE DIVERSITY OF SPECIES, INCLUDING:

### ***Fin whale*** *(Balaenoptera physalus)*

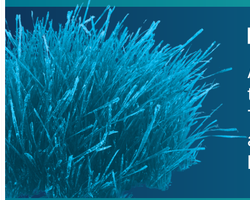
Gray coloration with a white underbelly and an irregular spot on its head. It is distinguished by having baleens instead of teeth, characteristic of so called baleen whales. It is the second biggest animal on Earth, reaching up to 24 meters long.

### *Cymodocea nodosa*

After *Posidonia oceanica*, it is the second most important marine plant in the Mediterranean due to its size and the extent of its meadows. It is found in shallow and well lit coastal areas, and like land plants, it has roots, stems, leaves, and flowers. They are considered the lungs of the sea because of the large amount of oxygen they generate, in addition to being a good refuge for many species.

### **Orange gorgonian** *(Leptogorgia sarmentosa)*

Also know as “sea fans”, gorgonians are colonies of organisms that develop on a sturdy skeleton. Working in groups allows them to have a larger area to capture their favorite food, plankton. They can grow up to one meter and serve as resting places for other animals that feed on their polyps.



### **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.

### **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 their eggs. In Spain, they usually nest on the Mediterranean coast, especially in Catalonia, the Valencian Community and the Balearic Islands.

# 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:

- CETACEAN WATCHING
- KAYAK AND PADDLE SURF
- ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
- SNORKELING AND DIVING
- HIKING

# 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.
- **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.
- **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.