

El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park



Parc
Natural
del Cadí-Moixeró



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia
Department of the Environment
and Housing



El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park

El **Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park**, declared as such in 1983 by the Government of Catalonia, encompasses 41,060 hectares, spread over three regions: L'Alt Urgell, El Berguedà and La Cerdanya. These make up the Pre-Pyrenean mountain group, composed of the Cadí and Moixeró mountain ranges, the Pedraforca Massif and a large part of La Tosa and Puigllançada Massifs. The need to protect the Cadí mountain range already formed part of the provisions of the Government of Catalonia's regional planning during the time of the Spanish Republic, in 1932. In 1963, this was again suggested in the Provincial Plan for Barcelona, which foresaw the possible existence of various natural areas in the region. In 1966, the Law was passed which established the **Cadí National Hunting Reserve**, still in existence, which included the area of the Natural Park, the Verd Mountains and El Port del Comte. In 1982, The **Natural Site of National Interest of the Pedraforca Massif** was declared by law. This included, in addition to the Pedraforca Massif, the Gresolet valley. This law enabled the regulation of opencast mining that was habitual around the lignite deposits situated in the southern part of the massif. The management of the Natural Site was incorporated into that of the Natural Park in 2004. On a European level, the Park has been declared a **Special Protection Area for Birds (SPAB)** and in the year 2003, its incorporation into the **Natura 2000 Network** as an alpine region was approved.

Beauty as Far as the Eye Can See

El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park falls within the category of Mountain Park, as its altitudes range between 800m, at the bottom of the valleys, to 2,648m at the highest point. The two major mountain ranges, of Cadí and Moixeró, joined by the Tancalaporta Pass, form an impressive mountainous barrier to the Pre-Pyrenean region, which stretches from east to west with a length of over 30km, and also incorporates the sources of the Segre and Llobregat rivers. The mountain slopes, especially on the northern side, form sheer cliffs with almost vertical walls and deep valleys in the Cadí range, and abrupt channels in the Moixeró range. The mountains of Pedraforca, Tosa and Puigllançada appear more as individual units. In the **Cadí range**, among those spots of special attraction and beauty, we can find the Roca de l'Ordiguer, on the north side, which dominates the wide Prat de Cadí, and the Vulturó which, with its 2,648m, is the highest point in the mountain range and in the Park. There is also the impressive southern façade, in particular the sector that towers over the village of Josa de Cadí, flanked by the main ridge to the north and by Cadinell to the west. On the easternmost part of these slopes are the Bastareny Springs, flowing from the Llobregat river source, which are particularly beautiful.

In the **Moixeró mountain range**, the highest point of which is the Penyes Altes de Moixeró, at 2,276m, the steep southern slopes and the extensive woodland areas are particularly attractive, with their havens such as the valleys of Vall de

l'Inгла and the Llebrera spring, the beech groves of Clot d'en Pere and the fir forests of Riu.

La **Tosa massif**, also known as the *Pedró dels Quatre Batlles* (four mayors cairn), where the four municipal boundaries of Bagà, Alp, Das and Urús meet, reaches 2,536m on the Eastern side of the Park, and has some very beautiful spots such as La Pleta del Llamp, situated below the rock of the same name that towers over the Gréixer valley. If we continue to the southwest, beyond the Coll de Pal, we will reach the mountain **Puigllançada** (2,409m) with its great expanses of pastureland, especially on the sun-facing slopes. These pastures extend beyond the Rus ridge to the village of Castellar de n'Hug, site of the source of the Llobregat River.

Pedraforca is one of the most attractive mountains in Catalonia, and also one of the most famous for mountaineering. It is easily identified by its abrupt, spectacular landscape, with the L'Enforcadura saddle joining the higher peak (Pollegó Superior, 2,497m) to the lower one (Pollegó Inferior, 2,400m). The north face is a hazardous yet beautiful spot for rock-climbing, with a sheer drop of 600-800m over the Gresolet valley, where we can find one of the most interesting woodland areas of this natural area; its microclimate, which is particularly damp, means that it is covered for the most part with fir and beech.

Cover: Prat de Cadí.

Photo: El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park archives

Opposite page: Pedraforca.

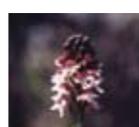
Photo: El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park archives



Vegetation

The Park's vegetation is of great scientific interest, with over 1,500 species of plants. The climatic conditions and the peculiarities of the changing altitude mean that within the Park, alpine, euro-Siberian and Mediterranean plants can coexist. A number of plant species that are native to the eastern Pyrenees region have a large part of their global population in the Park (*Xatardia scabra*, *Delphinium montanum*, *Asplenium seelosii* subsp. *catalaunicum*), while there are other plants native to a much wider area than the Pyrenees that are very scarce in other places (*Dracocephalum austriacum*, *Orchis spitzelii*, *Lappula deflexa*). The highest areas of the Park, at the **alpine level** (of over 2,000 metres), are covered with alpine meadows, consisting mainly of a large number of grass species and vibrant flowers, such as the pretty **gentian** (*Gentiana* sp.), the autumn-flowering **saffron crocus** (*Crocus nudiflorus*), the **Acanthus leaved thistle** (*Carlina acanthifolia* subsp. *cynara*) and the **Alpine pasque flower** (*Pulsatilla alpina*), among others.

At the lower **sub-alpine level** (from 1,600 to 2,000 metres), the predominant vegetation is forest of **mountain pine** (*Pinus uncinata*), a species that is highly adapted to the harsh climatic conditions. The undergrowth consists mainly of **juniper bushes** (*Juniperus nana*), **rhododendrons** (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*), known in the Cerdanya region as *estalabart*, and **bearberry** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). In the lower parts of these woodland areas, and on the north-facing slopes, forests of **fir trees** (*Abies alba*) are common and are in some places of great



value due to their very well preserved state.

At **montane level** (from 900 to 1,600 metres), the shaded slopes are populated with **beech** (*Fagus sylvatica*), while a high proportion of the sun-facing slopes are covered with **downy oak** (*Quercus pubescens*) and **evergreen oak** (*Quercus ilex*). There are often patches of varying size of beech and oak woods, accompanied by **field maple** (*Acer campestre*), **aspen** (*Populus tremula*) and **rowan** (*Sorbus aucuparia*), among the forests of **Scots pine** (*Pinus sylvestris*), the most populous species in the woods at the middle and lower levels of the Park. In these woods, the undergrowth consists mainly of **box** (*Buxus sempervirens*). Hay meadows, which are cut two or three times during the course of the summer in order to store the grass to feed the animals throughout the winter, can also be found at these lower levels.

The most interesting **plant life communities** are those that grow on the rocky hillsides **among the scree**. Here, among the stones, plants have had to adapt to the lack of water, to falling rocks and to the low temperatures. Of these species, one that is endemic to the eastern Pyrenees and that is without a doubt one of the Park's botanic treasures is the species *Xatardia scabra*, which the natives call *julivert d'isard* or chamois parsley.

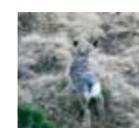
A relic of glacial times grows in the wetter zones of the cliffs, the **Pyrenean violet**, known locally as bear's ear, **orella d'ós** (*Ramonda myconi*).

Fauna

With over 249 species of vertebrates and large numbers of invertebrates (92 molluscs, 218 arachnids, 192 coleopterans and 115 lepidopterans, among which are 75% of all the common butterfly species in Catalonia), the Park's fauna has a role of great importance.

The **chamois** (*Rupicapra pyrenaica*) is one of the **Mamals** that stand out in the Park. During the summer months, chamois are found on the shady slopes and in the higher spots, while in the winter they come down the mountains or look for the sunnier slopes. The **red deer** (*Cervus elaphus*) and the **roe deer** (*Capreolus capreolus*), both of which had become extinct a few years ago, are now returning to the Park due to the reintroduction programmes carried out over the last fifty years. Other mammals such as the **pine marten** (*Martes martes*), the **stoat** (*Mustela erminea*), the **marmot** (*Marmota marmota*), which has appeared in recent years, and the **Etruscan pygmy shrew** (*Suncus etruscus*) can also be found. Today, another species has also returned to the Park, the **wolf** (*Canis lupus*).

Among the **bird species** in the Park are large birds of prey such as the **bearded vulture** (*Gypaetus barbatus*), the **golden eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and the **griffon vulture** (*Gyps fulvus*). Two species remaining from the glacial ages can be found in the old coniferous forests: the **capercaillie** (*Tetrao urogallus*) and the **black woodpecker** (*Dryocopus martius*). The latter was in fact chosen as the symbol of the Natural Park. Other species that should be highlighted are the **grey partridge** (*Perdix perdix*), the **wallcreeper** (*Tichodroma muraria*), the **dipper**



(*Cinclus cinclus*), the **ring ouzel** (*Turdus torquatus*), the **northern wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), the **crossbill** (*Loxia curvirostra*), the **white-winged snowfinch** (*Montifringilla nivalis*) and the **boreal owl** (*Aegolius funereus*), among many others.

As far as **reptiles** are concerned, there are two species that stand out in particular. Both of these very colourful species live in wet habitats, and are relatively easy to spot: the **European green lizard** (*Lacerta viridis*), of a brilliant green, and the **Western whip snake** (*Coluber viridiflavus*).

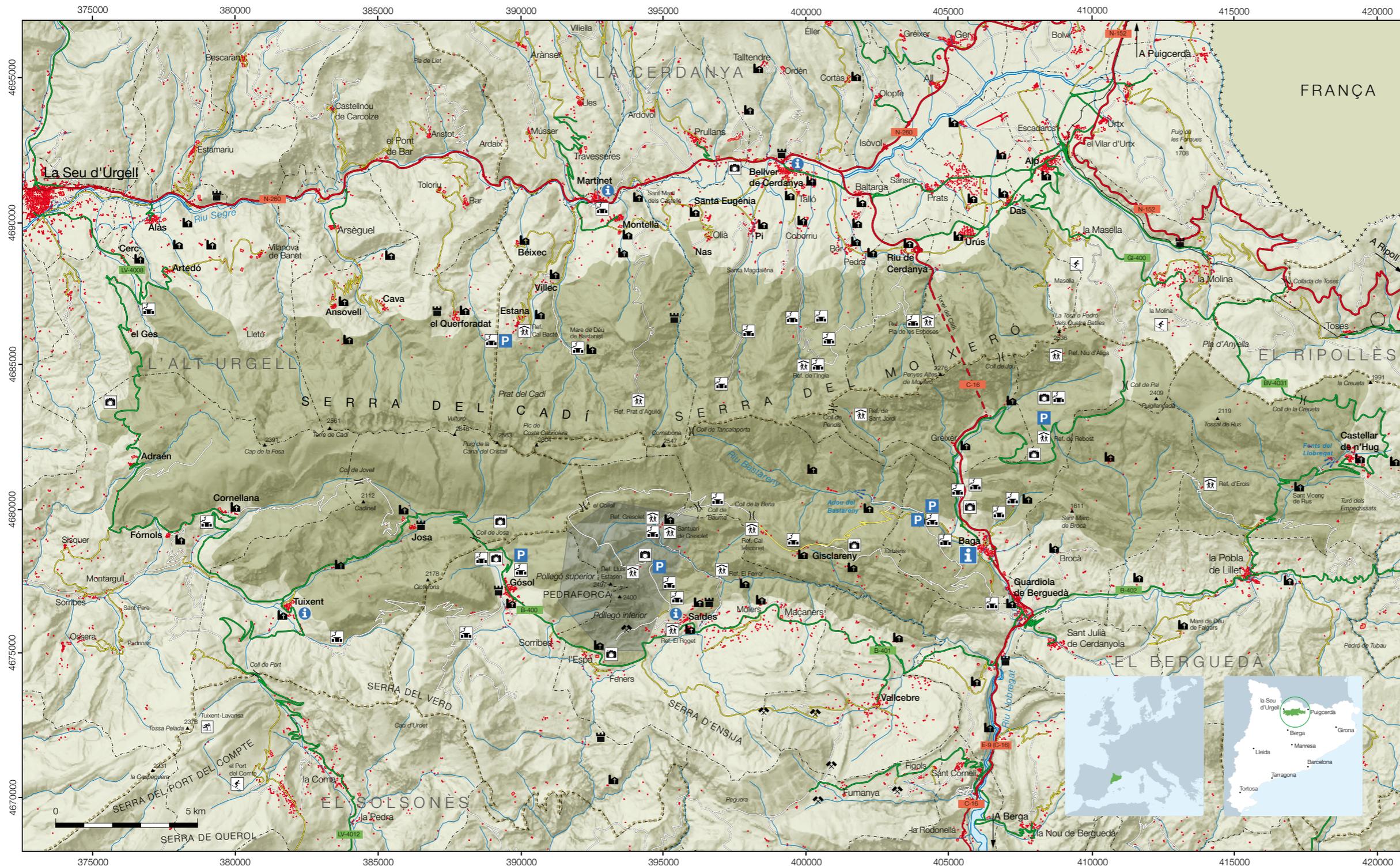
There are also other, more unobtrusive species, such as the **European asp** (*Vipera aspis*) and the **Southern smooth snake** (*Coronella girondica*). Among the **amphibians**, it is worth noting the **Pyrenean brook newt** (*Euproctus asper*), which lives in the rivers of cold and oxygenated water, the **common frog** (*Rana temporaria*), which can sometimes be found far from the water, and the **midwife toad** (*Alytes obstetricans*), with its unmistakable sound.

In the watercourses we can only find three native **fish species**: the **trout** (*Salmo trutta*), the **Mediterranean barbel** (*Barbus meridionalis*) and the **Eurasian minnow** (*Phoxinus phoxinus*).

1 **Vegetation at montane level**
Photo: El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park archives

2 **Bearded vulture (Gypaetus barbatus)**
Photo: Richard Martin

3 **Chamois (Rupicapra pyrenaica)**
Photo: Jordi Garcia Petit



Transport and Access

- By road**
- E-9 (C-16) Barcelona - Berga - Belver de Cerdanya (through the Cadí Tunnel)
 - N-152 Barcelona - Vic - Ripoll - Puigcerdà
 - N-260 La Seu d'Urgell - Puigcerdà
 - C-14 Tàrraga - La Seu d'Urgell (via the Oliana marsh)

Regular bus services

Barcelona - La Seu d'Urgell
 La Seu d'Urgell - Puigcerdà
 Andorra - Berga - Barcelona
 Llívia - Puigcerdà - Berga - Barcelona
 Castellar de n'Hug - Manresa
 Berga - Saldes - Gósol

Telephones:
 932 656 866 / 938 730 518 / 938 210 485 / 973 350 020

www.alsa.es

Train lines (RENFE)

Line Barcelona-Puigcerdà

Telephone: 902 240 202

e-mail: cercanias@renfe.es

www.renfe.es/cercanias/barcelona

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| | — National road/
1st class autonomus
network road |
| | — 2nd class autonomus
network road |
| | — Paved road |
| | — Forest Track |
| | — Railway |
| | + + + + + Border |
| | - - - - - Regional Boundary |
| | - - - - - Municipal Boundary |
| | Natural Park |
| | Natural Site of National Interest |
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UTM fus 31N
 European Datum 1950

Source
 Departament de Medi Ambient
 i Habitatge
 Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya



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Places of Historical and Cultural Interest

In the seventeen municipalities enclosed in the Park there are, in addition to the natural beauty of the rugged mountain scenery, the water and the vegetation, a number of very attractive spots of great interest.

Of particular interest from the historical point of view are the **mediaeval settlements** of Bagà, once the capital of the barony of Pinós, and **Bellver de Cerdanya**, once the centre of a feudal district, with some of the mediaeval walls and the pretty arcaded squares still visible. In addition, mention should be made of the villages of **Gósol** and **Saldes**, with their ruined **castles**. A great deal of documentation exists concerning the mediaeval history of these areas, including the presence of the Cathars.

The presence of smugglers and maquis has also left its mark, as has the intense subsistence economy developed over centuries in small rural mountain settlements.

A good number of settlements have managed to maintain their **traditional rural architecture** and their typical atmosphere, for example **Castellar de n'Hug**, **Fórnois** and **Josa de Cadí**, along with other, smaller settlements situated in pretty spots such as **Torres d'Alàs**, **Adraén**, **El Querforadat**, **Cava**, **Ansovell**, **Riu de Cerdanya**, **Gisclareny**, **Cornellana**, **Gréixer**, **Gósol** (where Picasso painted some of his work in 1906), and the old parishes that are now dependent on Bellver de Cerdanya, such as **Bor**, **Coborriu**, **Talltendre**, **Pi** and **Baltarga**. **Romanesque religious architecture** has left us many good examples of the genre: the former

Benedictine monastery of **Sant Llorenç prop Bagà**, and the church of **Talló** (a former canonical seat). Although on a smaller scale, the many little Romanesque churches scattered throughout the Park have a great appeal. These are **Sant Julià de Pedra**, **Sant Marcel de Bor**, **Sant Serni de Coborriu**, **Santa Maria de Josa**, **Sant Jaume de Tuixent**, **Sant Salvador d'Adraén**, **Santa Eugènia de Nerellà**, **Sant Just i Pastor de Cerc**, **Sant Julià dels Garrics**, **Sant Vicenç de Rus**, **Sant Martí del Puig**, **El Boscall**, **Santa Margarida de Gósol** and **Sant Miquel de Turbians**.

Many **popular traditions** and **festivals** have been kept very much alive here, such as the **processions to the Sanctuaries** of El Boscall, Bastanist, Les Peces, Gresolet, Talló and Paller. The **fair** of Sant Llorenç and the **Shepherding Fair**, which dates back to the 13th century, in Bellver and the **Mediaeval Market** in Bagà are also well known. At Castellar de n'Hug on the last Sunday in August each year there is an interesting sheepdog demonstration. On Christmas night, in Bagà and Sant Julià de Cerdanyola, the Feast of the Fia-Faia is held, which commemorates the winter solstice with burning torches. At Gósol in August, for the festival of the Assumption, the traditional *Contrapàs de les Coces* dance is performed. In Bagà on the second Sunday in February a huge paella is made for what was traditionally the *Àpat dels pobres*, the Meal of the Poor.

Activities

Hiking

The Natural Park has more than 400 km of marked walks to enjoy.

Long distance path (GR: white and red stripes):

- GR 150: circular path that goes around the Park visiting great variety of places and villages. GR 150-1: Variant that follows the ridge.
- GR 107, also known as the Camí dels Bons Homes (from Berga to Montsegur): It runs along the length of the Park through Gósol, Bagà and Bellver de Cerdanya, following the traces left by the Cathars of their presence in the area. GR 107-3: Variant that goes to Tuixent.
- GR 7 (from Andorra to Fredes): It goes from north to south, through La Seu d'Urgell to Tuixent
- GR 4 (from Puigcerdà to Montserrat): It also goes from north to south but through Alp and Falgars. GR 4-2: Variant that passes through Bagà.

Short distance paths (PR: white and yellow stripes):

- PR-C 67: Cava - Cortal d'en Roig - Cava
- PR-C 121: Estana - Canal del Cristall Pass
- PR-C 122: Adraén - Canal del Migdia Pass
- PR-C 123: a walk around Pedraforca
- PR-C 124: Saldes - Olià
- PR-C 125: L'Hostalet - L'Hostalet
- PR-C 126: Urús - Shelter of Rebost
- PR-C 127: Pedraforca 360°
- PR-C 158: Guardiola de Berguedà - Paller de Dalt. Variant PR-C 158-1: Sant Martí de Brocà - Guardiola de Berguedà

Local paths (SL: white and green stripes):

There is a great diversity of paths wich are

promoted by local entities These are short, easy walks.

Thematic paths:

- Camí dels Segadors* (The Route of the Reapers): which goes from Gósol to Bellver through the Pas de Gosolans and the Prat d'Aguió.
- Cavalls del Vent* (Horses of the Wind): a circular route joining eight of the Park's shelters.
- Camí dels Bons Homes* (Path of the Good Men): which passes various historical spots through which the Cathars travelled.
- Nature trails: the Marmots Way, the Coal Tit's Way, the Crossbill Route and the Otter Route.

Bicycle routes

- Circuit of the Park by Mountain Bike.
- Cycle tour of the Park

Routes with All-Terrain Vehicles

- From Gósol to Tuixent via the Sastró plateau and the Coll de la Mola.
- From Bagà to Sant Joan de l'Avellanet, as far as the Vinya Vella springs, arriving at the Park of the town of Bagà.
- From Bagà to Saldes via Gisclareny, via the Bauma Pass and Gresolet or via Collell and the Gresolet viewing point.
- From Riu de Cerdanya the Serrat de les Esposes shelter, the Cap del Ras viewing point, the Ingla shelter and descending through the valley to Bellver.

Routes by Car

- From Guardiola de Berguedà to Saldes, Gósol, then to Josa i Tuixent and, passing through Adraén, to La Seu d'Urgell.

- From La Pobla de Lillet to La Molina, passing through Castellar de n'Hug and the Coll de la Creueta.

Climbing

The areas where rock climbing is possible are on Pedraforca and on the North face of El Cadí. On Pedraforca there are classic climbing routes such as Estasen, Pany and Cavis-Genis. On the North wall of the Cadí ridge there are climbing routes such as the one at Ordiguer and the one at Estana, used mainly during the winter.

Guide Service

The Park has a guide and mountain warden service. These are people who know the area well and offer a wide range of activities: guided walks on foot, on horseback, by mountain bike, with snowshoes and trails in all-terrain vehicles. They also offer mountain walks, hill climbing and rock climbing. In addition, it is possible to join photographic safaris and nature trails.

Hunting and Fishing

The Cadí National Hunting Reserve shares a good part of its area with the Natural Park, mainly in the west through the mountains of Odèn, Port del Compte, Figols and Alinyà. The chamois is the most important species for hunting and it is a carefully managed species for this purpose. The technical management of the Reserve is located in the Park Centre at Bagà. There are controlled areas of river trout fishing in the Segre, Vansa and Llobregat rivers. Fishing is not permitted in the Park's other rivers, in order to encourage the natural repopulation of the lower waters.

Tourism

The possibilities of **cultural tourism** are enriched by museums such as the Picasso Museum and the Ethnological Museum in Gósol, the Museum of Cement and the Museum of the Shepherd at Castellar de n'Hug, the Museum of Trementinaires (travelling women who gathered and sold turpentine and medicinal herbs) at Tuixent, the M.A. Millions d'Anys (Millions of Years) exhibition at Vallcebre, the Mediaeval and Cathars Centre in Bagà, the Museum Collection in Das, the Museum of the Forest in Bellver de Cerdanya and the Artigas Gardens, designed by Gaudi, in the Pobla de Lillet. For those interested in **nature tourism**, a visit to the different interpretation centres in the Park is a must: the Casa del Riu (River House) in Martinet, Centre del Parc (Park Centre) in Bagà, Forest Fauna exhibition at Ca les Monges in Bellver de Cerdanya and the Interpretation Centre of the Natural Site of National Interest of Pedraforca in Saldes.

1 Mediaeval old town

Photo: El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park archives

2 Romanesque religious architecture

Photo: El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park archives

3 Hiking

Photo: El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park archives

4 All-terrain vehicles route

Photo: El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park archives

5 Specialised activity

Photo: El Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park archives



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Shelters

El Berguedà

Niu d'Àliga Shelter. Bagà
Telephone: 972 89 20 31

Rebost Shelter. Bagà
Telephone: 608 736 714

Shelter d'Erols. Castellar de n'Hug
Telephone: 936 832 661

Cal Tesconet Shelter. Gisclareny
Telephones: 937 441 016 - 938 244 240
Mobile: 608 493 317

Sant Jordi. Guardiola de Berguedà
Telephone: 619 239 860

Casa Refugi Gresolet Shelter. Saldes
Telephone: 937 441 102

El Ferrer Shelter. Saldes
Telephone: 938 258 068

El Roget Shelter. Saldes
Telephone: 659 947 020

Lluís Estasen Shelter. Saldes
Telephone: 608 315 312

Santuari de Gresolet Shelter. Saldes
Telephone: 689 780 741

Cerdanya

Shelter de l'Inglà. Bellver de Cerdanya
Telephone: 616 85 55 35

Prat d'Aguiló Shelter. Montellà-Martinet
Telephone: 639 714 087

Cal Basté Shelter. Montellà-Martinet (Estana)
Telephone: 973 515 345

Pla de les Esposes Shelter. Riu de Cerdanya
Telephone: 669 757 266

Cortal del Vidal Shelter. Urús
Telephone: 972 890 210

Rules and Recommendations

Our natural areas are part of our heritage and must be respected and preserved so that coming generations may enjoy their landscape and their geomorphology, their flora and their fauna. Among the logical behaviour rules, based on respect for your surroundings, we would like to emphasise the following:

- Wild camping in the Park has negative effects on its conservation. There are shelters for spending the night in the Park.
- Fires must only be lit in the designated areas.
- Litter and rubbish must be deposited in the containers provided.
- Travelling in motor vehicles in the grassland and woodland areas is forbidden. In general, stick to the roads and the tracks marked as open to drivers. There are car parks marked for leaving vehicles, and if it is necessary to park by the side of the road, ensure that this causes no inconvenience to other motorists.
- Do not disturb those people who live in the Park area, and do not cause damage to pastures, paths, shelters or signs and markings.
- Some plants and flowers are poisonous or are protected due to their rarity. Admire the plants without picking them, and respect the trees.
- Do not disturb or capture any animals you see. They can be enjoyed simply by watching them.
- Do not dirty the springs or rivers, and above all do not use soaps or detergents.
- Domestic animals must be kept under control and on a lead.

1 Natural Park Shelter

Photo: El Cadi-Moixeró Natural Park Archives

2 Picnic area

Photo: El Cadi-Moixeró Natural Park Archives

3 Viewpoint

Photo: El Cadi-Moixeró Natural Park Archives

4 Park Centre

Photo: El Cadi-Moixeró Natural Park Archives

Back cover: Maçaners and the South face of the Cadí

Photo: El Cadi-Moixeró Natural Park Archives

Park information and offices

El Cadi-Moixeró Natural Park Office

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E-mail address

pnccadimoixero.dmah@gencat.cat

Area (Department of the Environment and Housing Planning Service. Last updated: 2008)
39,310 ha (Natural Park).
1,750 ha (Natural Site of National Interest)

Municipalities

Alàs i Cerc
Alp
Bagà
Bellver de Cerdanya
Castellar de n'Hug
Cava
Das
Gisclareny
Gósol
Guardiola de Berguedà
Josa i Tuixent
la Vansa i Fórnols
Montellà i Martinet
Riu de Cerdanya
Saldes
Urús
Vallcebre

Regions

L'Alt Urgell
El Berguedà
La Cerdanya

Date of creation

Decree 353/1983, of 15th July, declaring the Cadi-Moixeró Natural Park.

International Protection

Natura 2000. Alpine Region.
Special Protection Area, September 1987, in accordance with Directive 79/409/ EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds.



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