

Committed to Sustainability

Torroella de Montgrí i l'Estartit



2017
INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
FOR DEVELOPMENT



Torroella · l'Estartit · illes Medes
www.visitestartit.com



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An area of great environmental interest



The municipality of Torroella de Montgrí-L'Estartit is situated in the county of Baix Empordà, in an area of great environmental interest marked by a wide variety of geographical features

The municipality of Torroella de Montgrí-L'Estartit, which has an area of 66 square kilometres, includes a wide variety of ecosystems and landscapes, ranging from the mountainous terrain of the Montgrí Massif to the Baix Ter Plain and the coastal strip, flanked by the Medes Islands as an outstanding feature. The area covered by the Baix Ter Plain, the Medes Islands and the Montgrí Massif was made into a Natural Park in 2010. The municipal area of Torroella de Montgrí-

-L'Estartit includes 68% of the total area of the Park. Given the special characteristics of the heritage of this area, the municipal council is firmly committed to the protection of the landscape and its diverse habitats, which are home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. The wildlife present in the massif, the islands, the coastal dunes, the marshlands and the agricultural plain are all vital for the preservation of a landscape that is exceptionally rich in terms of natural heritage.

Sustainability policies

In line with these principles, for many years now we have applied policies designed to combine successfully

“The Alt Empordà and Baix Empordà counties together form a cartwheel. Right at the hub of this cartwheel is the mountain of Santa Caterina del Montgrí.”

Josep Pla, El meu país (“My Country”), 1958, Obra Completa, Edicions Destino



≡ Protected areas within the municipality ≡≡≡

- ≡ Montgrí Massif
- ≡ Medes Islands and seabed
- ≡ Coastal strip
- ≡ Baix Ter marshlands
- ≡ Agricultural areas
- ≡ Montgrí Castle
- ≡ Baix Ter farms
- ≡ River Ter

the municipality's tourism-related activities with the preservation of the environment, in perfect harmony with continuing economic development. We are thus firmly committed to sustainability in all its aspects (environment-friendly development of tourism, transport, energy saving, optimum management of publicly owned woodlands, recovery of existing areas, etc.), and also to the safeguarding and enhancement of natural sites and their habitats, and to the restoration of heritage features in these areas, such as footpaths, outstanding buildings and other landmarks.



01 An area of great environmental interest > A Natural Park with three types of landscape

Great diversity of ecosystems

A Natural Park with three types of landscape



The quantity and variety of both marine and terrestrial habitats, combined with the landscapes fashioned by man in the Montgrí Massif, the Medes Islands and the Baix Ter marshlands, were the factors that led to the area being granted the status of a Natural Park in 2010. Three different types of natural terrain cohabit within an area of 8,192 hectares.

The Medes Islands, the Montgrí Massif with its surrounding area, and the marshlands of the Baix Ter Plain were declared a Natural Park on 28 May 2010. This protective status also covers the former lake of Bellcaire, the lake of Pals, the Closes Boues and the former lake of Boada, the ricefields of Pals, the Basses

d'en Coll, Vilanera-Les Corts, the Baix Ter coastline and the Bol Roig area of L'Escala (giving a total of 8,192 hectares).

The precincts of the Park include a range of landscapes and habitats, with a rich heritage that bears witness to the historical development of the area from the Palaeolithic era to the present day. The protective measures combine perfectly with the continuation of traditional activities in the areas concerned, whether they be agricultural or relate to active or exploration-based forms of tourism such as hiking, scuba diving and cycling.

In late 2016 the Montgrí, Medes Islands and Baix Ter Natural Park obtained the prestigious European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, awarded by the EUROPARC Federation.

≡ Time-line for protective measures

- ≡ **1971** Plan for a marine park and reserve for the Medes Islands
- ≡ **1983** The Catalan Government approves a decree on 25 November prohibiting fishing and the removal of marine resources
- ≡ **1990** Law for the conservation of the flora and fauna of the seabed surrounding the Medes Islands
- ≡ **1992** Protective measures for the Montgrí Massif, the above-water parts of the Medes Islands and part of the Baix Ter marshlands of the seabed surrounding the Medes Islands
- ≡ **2001** Inclusion of the seabed around the Medes Islands in the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)
- ≡ **2006** Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds are designated, and the proposed designation as a Site of Community Importance (SCI) is approved
- ≡ **2008** Approval of the Master Plan for the Use and Management of the Medes Islands Protected Area
- ≡ **2010** Approval of the Natural Park in the Catalan Parliament (grouping together the previous regulations)

|| Flora and fauna



The Natural Park features 38 registered natural habitats, of which 17 are considered of European interest and 4 have priority conservation status.

It contains 189 registered species of birds, including the peregrine falcon, kestrel, jackdaw, Montagu's harrier, Bonelli's eagle, cormorant and herring gull, together with numerous species of fish such as the grouper, sea bass, gilt-head bream, dentex, white sea-bream and red tuna. Coralligenous communities such as red gorgonian, red coral and mosaics of sponges are found, in addition to marine phanerogamae of great value, such as *Posidonia oceanica*, and different types of algae.

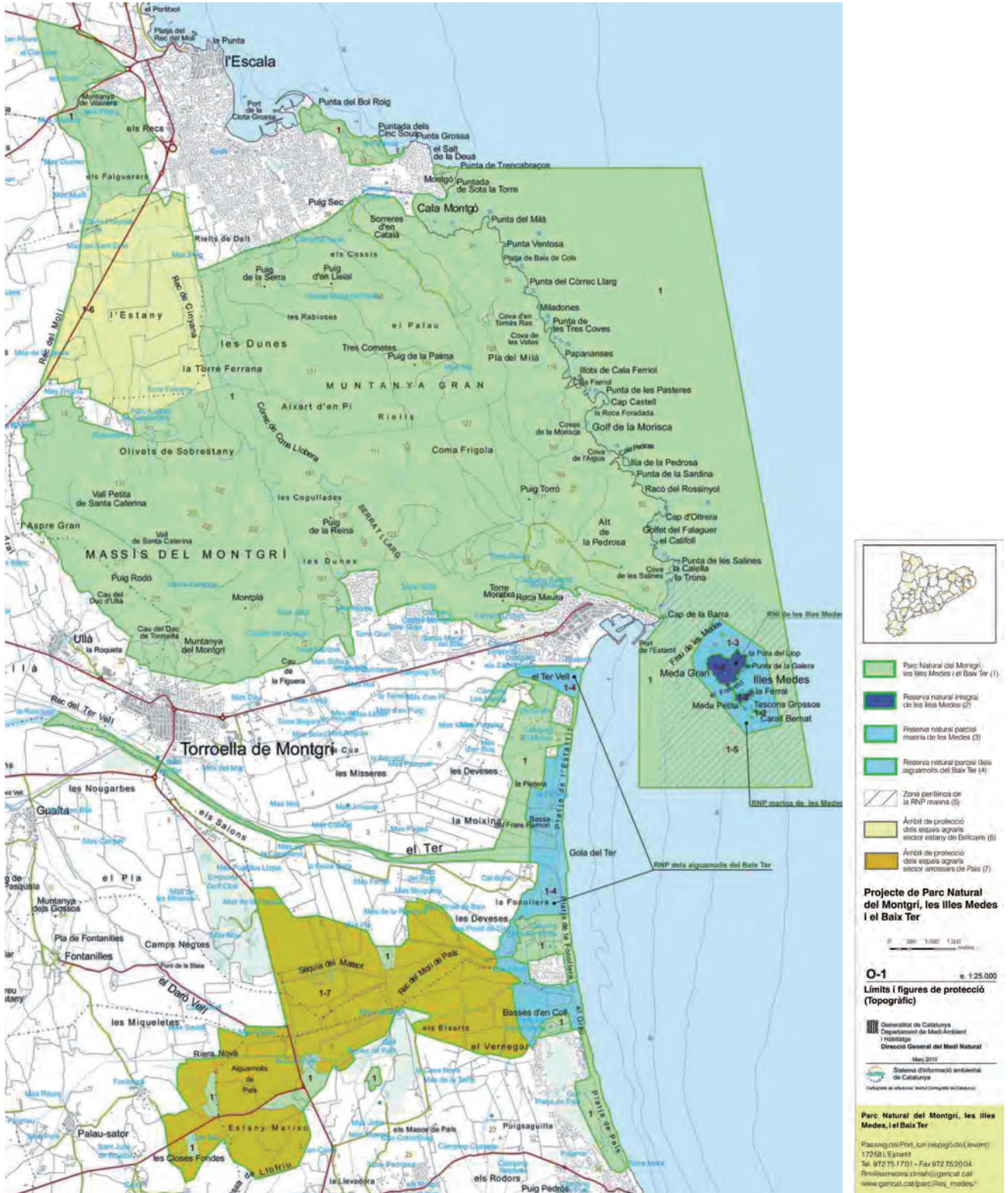
|| The River Ter and the marshlands

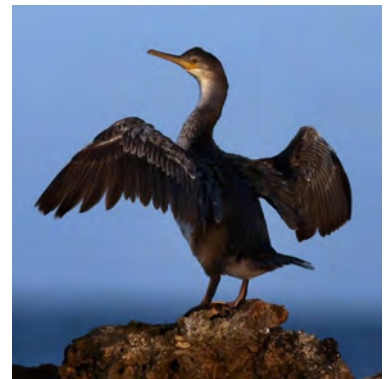
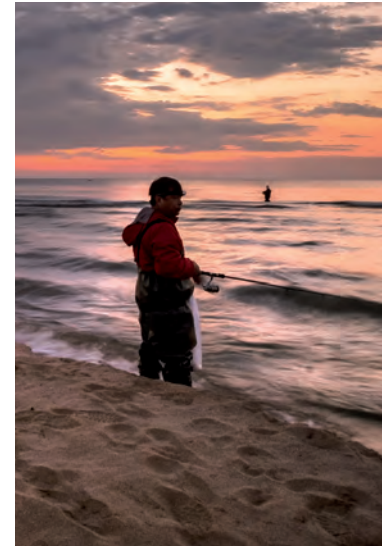


The River Ter, the longest river in the province of Girona, has its source in the Pyrenees and reaches the sea right in the heart of the Natural Park, in the area known as La Gola. Practically its entire length is bordered by a variety of agricultural landscapes in which crops including rice, fruit trees and cereals are grown. The coastal area also includes the lagoon of Ter Vell, which forms part of the Baix Ter marshlands. The lagoon and its flood zone occupy an area of 23 hectares, within which are found beach-type flora and a marshland habitat that is home to numerous aquatic birds. The lagoon's water supply derives from both surplus irrigation water from the agricultural plain and from rainfall.

01 An area of great environmental interest > A Natural Park with three types of landscape

Map of the Montgrí, Medes Islands and Baix Ter Natural Park





|| The Medes Centre, an innovative proposal

The Medes Centre is a new facility planned for the port of L'Estartit. Its main objective is to provide information about the Medes Islands and to make it easier for the different sections of the public to gain access to them, thus fostering interest in this natural site and its protection. Conceived in collaboration between the authorities responsible for the Natural Park and the private sector, the Centre will include an entertaining exhibition with high-quality innovative and interactive features. It will be the key reference point for publicising the Medes Islands and raising environmental awareness, focussing particularly on the marine environment, and will also organise educational programmes concerning the environmental and cultural features of the Natural Park's coastal area. It will operate both as the starting point for multiple activities for discovering the Park and as a centre for highlighting the history of L'Estartit, and the key importance of fishing and the marine

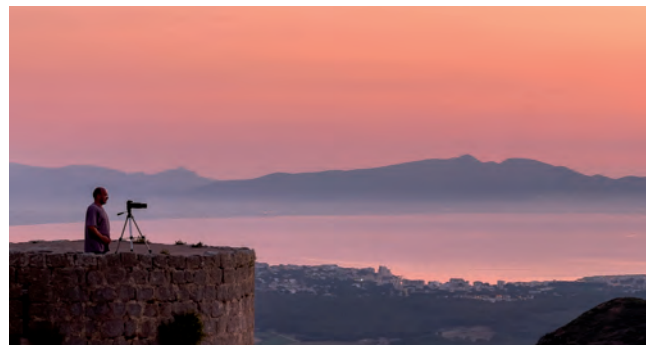
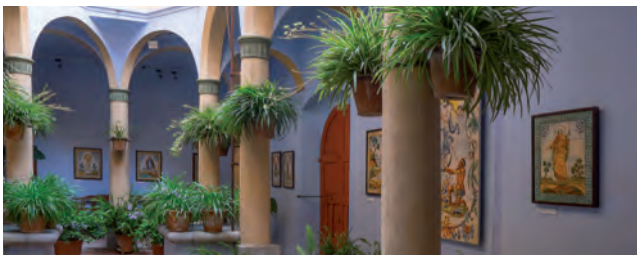


environment in the town's development. It will also coordinate projects to promote sustainable fishing initiatives.

In the specific field of tourism, it will coordinate the publicising and sale of tourism-related products and marine activities, acting as the starting point for discovering the Natural Park and for promoting the L'Estartit-Medes Islands Marine Resort.

The value of the heritage

The landscape and the cultural and historical heritage



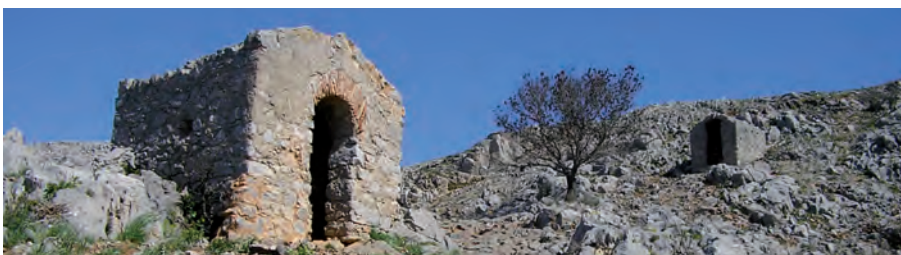
The area protected by the Montgrí, Medes Islands and Baix Ter Natural Park obviously includes landscapes of great natural beauty, but also features a cultural and historical heritage that traces the human and historical development of the area. The most outstanding monument is Montgrí Castle, built between 1294 and 1301 as a demonstration of the power of King James II of Aragon over the Counts of Empúries.

The Massif contains some of the oldest traces of human occupation in Catalonia, such as the cave dwelling known as the Cau del Duc de Torroella, dating back specifically to the Lower Palaeolithic era. The significant remains found here are currently exhibited in the Archaeological Museum of Catalonia and the Museum of the Mediterranean. The Medes Islands were often taken over by pirates who attacked the coastal areas. The numerous fortified farmhouses in the area bear witness to their attacks. There is a clear desire to preserve and restore this rich and significant historical heritage.



≡ Main historical monuments ≡

- ≡ **Montgrí Castle** (1294-1301), on top of the Massif
- ≡ **Cau del Duc de Torroella** (cave dwelling, Lower Palaeolithic)
- ≡ **Cau del Duc d'Ullà** (hunting shelter, Lower Palaeolithic)
- ≡ **Cau de les Dents** (funerary remains, Late Neolithic)
- ≡ **Cau d'en Calvet** (Late Neolithic dwelling)
- ≡ **Cau de l'Olivar d'en Margall** (Late Neolithic dwelling)
- ≡ **Cau dels Óssos** (Late Neolithic dwelling)
- ≡ **Eixart d'en Vidal** (dry-stone hut)
- ≡ **Tossal Gros** (Late Neolithic dwelling)
- ≡ **Poblat de la Fonollera** (Early Neolithic settlement)
- ≡ **Remains from the Iberian era on the Montgrí Massif** (6th- 5th centuries BC)
- ≡ **Remains of Roman settlement, Camp de la Gruta** (1st cent. BC-5th cent. AD)
- ≡ **Remains of Roman cemetery on Medes Islands** (1st cent. BC-5th cent. AD)
- ≡ **Hermitage of Santa Caterina** (1392-1405) **and isolated chapels**
- ≡ **Hermitage of Santa Maria de Palau** (13th century) **and isolated chapels**
- ≡ **Torre Morratxa, Torre Montgó and fortified farmhouses in the coastal strip** (17th-18th centuries)
- ≡ **Remains of a Napoleonic fort on the Medes Islands** (18th century)



|| The Museum of the Mediterranean: a very cultural sea

The Museum of the Mediterranean, housed in the historic Can Quintana building in Torroella de Montgrí, is dedicated to providing information about the landscape and human activity in the Mediterranean, taking as a basis the area of the Montgrí Massif, the Baix Ter Plain and the Medes Islands. Through a range of programmes the Museum offers a participative experience for children and adults alike: smell the aromas of the Mediterranean, listen to its sounds and its music, 'touch' its history and enjoy a panoramic audiovisual record of the world of today's Mediterranean. The Museum offers guided tours around Torroella and the Natural Park, and is the headquarters of the Chair of Mediterranean Coastal Ecosystems, created by Torroella Municipal Council in conjunction with the University of Girona. The Chair is dedicated to an in-depth study of the region and its ecological, socio-economic and cultural.



Adapting to the times Activities



The municipal of Torroella de Montgrí and Estartit has continuously grown and adapted with the changing times, modelling its tourism package on the necessities and experiences of the visitors. Catering for everyone with a wide choice and variety.

The scenic beauty, cultural heritage makes it a pleasant destination throughout the year, to disconnect and relax on a long family holiday, taking small trips and doing sports of all kinds.

With the objective of satisfying the needs and wants of the tourist that visit during the year places that offer accommodation have adapted their facilities to ensure maximum comfort. The majority of establishments have paid special attention to the varying needs of families, transport, security, sports enthusiasts, divers, cyclists and disabled people.

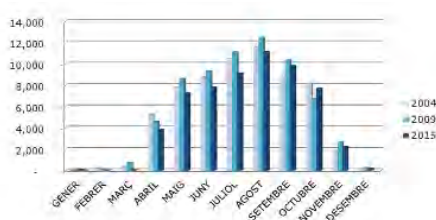
Some campsites have been awarded quality certificates for the high standards of their services and facilities.

|| Nautical activities

The pleasure port in L'Estartit allows for the practising of numerous nautical activities, of which the most popular is scuba diving. Thanks to the preservation of the rich biodiversity of the marine environment, L'Estartit has become one of the main diving centres in the Mediterranean. In order to make conservation compatible with leisure, the activities that have the most potential impact are regulated (i.e., scuba diving, snorkelling, the anchoring of boats, etc.) Sailing, windsurfing, kitesurfing and paddle-surfing are among the other water sports practised in L'Estartit, together with the possibility of observing marine life in suitably adapted boats.



Monthly distribution of the number of dives in the Medes Islands – 2004, 2009 and 2015



|| Discovery paths

The Natural Park is criss-crossed by some twenty or so paths designed to explore the area and discover its heritage. These are paths that may be followed on foot or by bicycle, through the mountainous areas, across the plain or beside the sea, with different levels of difficulty and duration. Many of these paths lead into neighbouring municipalities or join up with long-distance footpaths such as the Pirinexus network of cycle routes, the River Ter Route, the GR-92, or the networks provided by the two county councils in the Empordà.



|| Beaches and services for all the family

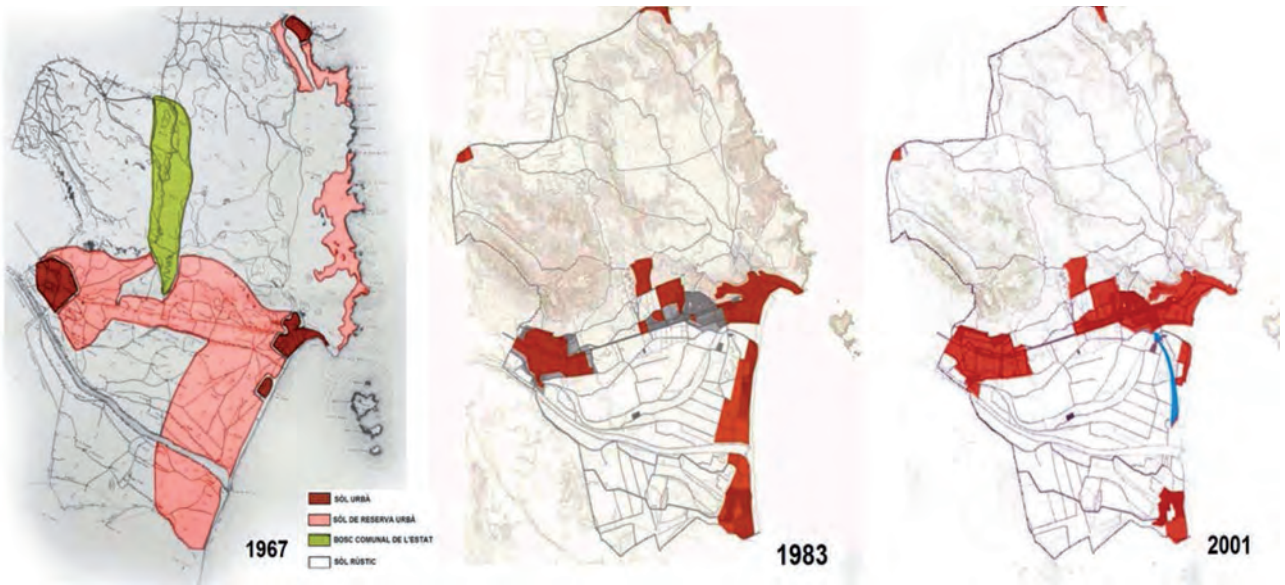
The municipality's coastal strip is 15.1 km long, 5.4 km of which are made up of beaches. Since 2006, L'Estartit has had its own Integrated Environment and Tourism Quality Management System, which ensures the preservation of the environment and the quality of the services provided to beach users. Thanks to this system, the municipality has successfully introduced various initiatives to improve the quality of its services, as confirmed by the awards received in this field from the Catalan Government's Department of Territory & Sustainability and the Eco-Management & Audit Scheme (EMAS) for Catalonia, in addition to the Q for Quality flag that flies year after year over the town's main beach. This high level of environmental quality is accompanied by extra services for users, such as children's play areas, a beach library, organised excursions, and the Mini Beach Club in the pinewoods on the main beach (offering children's activities).



04

Ever since tourism-related activities first started, the municipality has progressively reduced the area of land eligible for building and extended conservation areas

Ecological awareness Town planning



The evolution of the General Urban Development Plan for the municipality of Torroella de Montgrí-L'Estartit.



Restricting building land and extending conservation

Since the beginning of tourism-related activities in the 1950s and 1960s, the municipal planning policy of Torroella de Montgrí-L'Estartit has evolved towards a progressive reduction of land eligible for building and an increase in the number of conservation areas. Thus areas subject to geological hazards have been declared unsuitable for building, restrictions on building heights and density have been reinforced, and areas of natural beauty and the agricultural plain have both been protected. The General Urban Development Plan for 1967 tolerated an excessive level of development, with numerous buildings earmarked for tourist accommodation, but the scheme for 1983 halted these excesses by introducing much stricter controls. Finally, the General Development Plan for 2001 established new criteria based on a policy of sustainability. We have since then continued to work towards a new model of tourism that appreciates the value of the environment, through the protection of given areas and the declaration as rural areas of land previously designated as eligible for building.

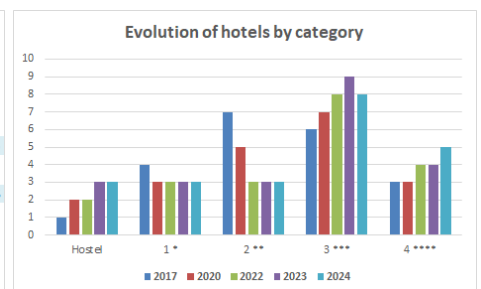
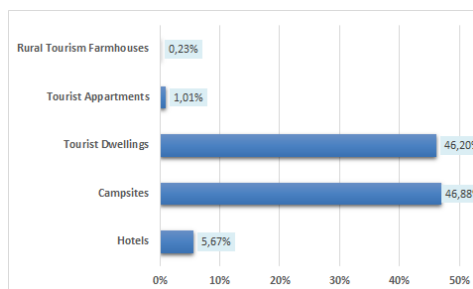
Criteria for urban planning and economic development

- ≡ The new model of tourism, based on sustainability, shall be a key factor in any planning review
- ≡ The fostering of the environment, the landscape and the natural heritage shall orientate all present and future actions
- ≡ The eligibility of land for building must be constantly reviewed to ensure development is subjected to sustainability criteria
- ≡ Support must be given to local businesses dedicated to activities related with the environment
- ≡ Agricultural production must be protected
- ≡ The activity of the Guild of Fishermen must be supported

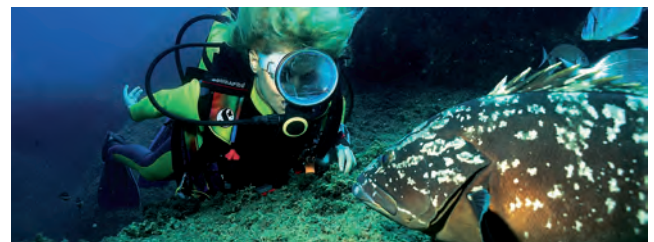
Tourist accommodation in Torroella de Montgrí-l'Estartit

Capacity (year 2024): 31.783 places

Hotels: 1.801 places
 Campsites: 14.091 places
 Tourist Dwellings: 14.685 places
 Tourist Apartments: 322 places
 Rural Tourism Farmhouses: 74 places



Benefits and profits Effects of protecting areas of natural interest

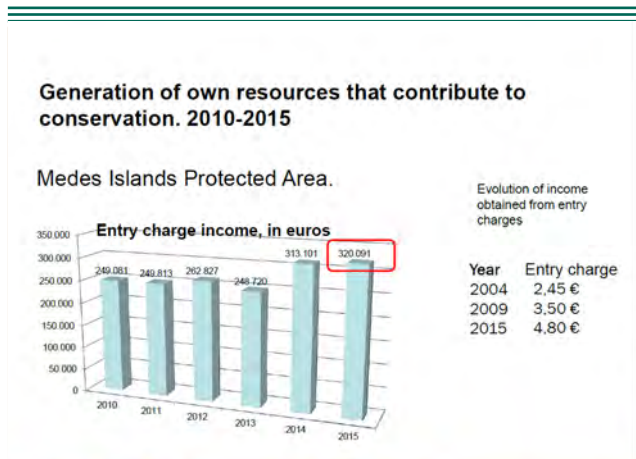


The protection of natural sites and features always brings benefits in social, heritage, cultural and economic terms.

Thus, the introduction of protective measures in the areas now included in the Montgrí, Medes Islands and Baix Ter Natural Park have produced effects that, in

areas such as the Medes Islands, can be readily quantified in economic and environmental terms: a spectacular recovery of the marine environment; the ability to operate as a form of open-air laboratory and classroom; a positive impact on tourism; and a factor conducive to the change in the model of tourism. The various initiatives for protection have encouraged the creation of new companies dedicated to

environmental activities, the consolidation of a new demand for active tourism, the direct creation of jobs and generation of income from new services, and the extension of the tourist season.



Estimate of the economic impact of the Medes Islands Protected Area

	2004	2009	2015
Scuba diving, snorkelling and kayaking	5.399.390 €	7.269.600 €	9.220.698 €
Boat excursions	4.000.000 €	2.750.000 €	2.875.000 €
TOTAL	9.399.390 €	10.019.600 €	12.095.698 €

Effect on employment	
Direct jobs: 200 persons (1)	Approx. 7% of registered population

(1) Protected Area management team; boat crews; diving, snorkelling and environmental education monitors; sales and administrative staff, etc.

The value of local products, from both sea and land

The municipality of Torroella de Montgrí-L'Estartit has a long culinary tradition and local products from both land and sea. Fruit (mainly apples, but also peaches, nectarines and pears) has been grown on the Baix Ter Plain since time immemorial, and constitutes one of the main sources of income for the area's farmers. These locally produced crops are progressively increasing in value and have their own distinctive label of origin and quality, a Protected Geographical Indication (in the case of apples, "Poma de Girona").

A gastronomic festival entitled "Cooking with Apples" is held every year in October in Torroella. The other main crop in the Baix Ter area, in terms of both cultivated area and economic value, is rice, marketed under the name "Arròs de Pals" (Pals being the municipality that shares with Torroella the extensive area of cultivation dedicated to this cereal). The area also features a number of vineyards and olive groves, in addition to numerous market gardens growing seasonal produce. With regard to marine resources, off the coast of L'Estartit there are more than 60 species of fish and seafood suitable for consumption, and eels, caught at La Gola del Ter, are among the area's most appreciated gastronomic specialities. The Guild of Fishermen of L'Estartit consists of about twenty active fishermen, most of whom use traditional fishing methods and sell their fresh produce in Torroella and L'Estartit and at the fish markets in other towns on the Costa Brava, especially Palamós and L'Escala. The gastronomic festival "Sonso of L'Estartit" is held every year in June. Local producers bring their produce to the weekly street markets that are held in Torroella and L'Estartit, on Mondays and Thursdays respectively.



Efforts for sustainable tourism European distinctions



The Montgrí, Medes Islands and Baix Ter Natural Park and the municipality as a whole have obtained various Catalan and European awards validating an appropriate approach to sustainable development.

In late 2016, after two years of dedicated effort, the Natural Park obtained the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, a prestigious distinction awarded by the EUROPARC Federation. In 2014 the municipality initiated its participation in the European Tourism Indicators System (ETIS), designed to increase the sustainability and competitiveness of tourist destinations. Torroella de Montgrí-L'Estartit was one of the 60 European destinations that took part in the system. The municipality also forms part of the Network of European Regions for Competitive and Sustainable Tourism (NECSTouR), made up of 28 regional tourism authorities, as well as representatives of the academic world and industry. In addition, in 2006 the Municipal Council started to introduce the ISO 9001 and ISO14001 standards and a voluntary European environmental



management system, EMAS, designed to improve efficiency in the use of resources, reduce risks and set an example through a public declaration of best practices. This effort was rewarded in 2016 with the distinction conferred on Torroella-L'Estartit by the EMAS Club of Catalonia and the Catalan Government's Department of Territory & Sustainability.



The Chair of Mediterranean Coastal Ecosystems

The Chair of Mediterranean Coastal Ecosystems was created through collaboration between the University of Girona and Torroella de Montgrí-L'Estartit Municipal Council to foster the study, restoration, management and dissemination of information about the natural areas in the Baix Ter coastal strip.

The Chair has the following aims:

- to foster scientific studies concerning Mediterranean coastal ecology, particularly those directed towards a greater knowledge of the ecosystems and the inter-relationships between different types of coastal, marine and inland habitats, especially those related to the Montgrí, Medes Islands and Baix Ter Natural Park.
- to coordinate and channel the studies or projects required for the correct management of these natural areas.

- to participate with appropriate advice in the management of Mediterranean coastal natural areas.
- to transmit and disseminate knowledge about Mediterranean coastal areas and their ecological characteristics..



Implementing sustainability Commitment to efficiency and mobility



The policies applied by Torroella-L'Estartit Municipal Council are clearly committed to energy efficiency and sustainability in a range of municipal activities

|| The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan

Torroella de Montgrí-L'Estartit is currently preparing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan that fosters the rational use of private vehicles and gives priority to

travelling on foot or by bicycle. The policy is based on the following criteria:

- Fostering and encouraging collective public transport and other transport systems with little or no environmental impact.
- Involvement of society in the taking of decisions that affect individual mobility.
- Fostering sustainable urban development and

rational use of land.

- Prioritising means of transport with a lower cost in social and environmental terms, both for passengers and for merchandise.
- Adherence to European policies in relation to these subjects.
- Fulfilment of international treaties for the protection of the climate and of mobility.

|| Sustainability covenant and energy saving schemes

Torroella de Montgrí signed the Covenant of Mayors for Sustainable Energy on 2 February 2012, and during the following months drafted the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), which was approved in 2013. This is a European Union initiative to foster participation on the part of citizens and local government in the fight against global warming and climate change. Commitments foreseen by the Covenant include: the reduction of CO2 emissions by 20% by the year 2020; a 20% increase in energy efficiency; and the implementation of a target of 20% of energy supplies coming from renewable resources. The degree of implementation of the SEAP action plan in Torroella was 61.73% in 2016, and the percentage of savings obtained was 81.74% of the total of emissions planned to be saved by 2020 (representing 134 tonnes of CO2 per year).

Since 2003, the municipality has also implemented a Local Sustainability Action Plan (LSAP), a document defining the policies and initiatives to be fostered so as to achieve more sustainable development. Examples are: a rational and efficient model of land use; improvements in mobility and accessibility; and establishing a network of rural footpaths. The Council has already implemented many of the policies outlined in these plans and other exemplary initiatives, such as energy saving schemes in municipal buildings, together with the measures introduced at Can Mach, the headquarters of the Environment and Town Planning Department: paper recycling, energy conservation, travel by bicycle, selective collection of rubbish, use of osmosis water to save packaging, etc.

|| Sustainable energy

The following are among the most noteworthy energy saving initiatives implemented to date:

- The Guillem de Montgrí Primary School is equipped with a biomass boiler fuelled with waste wood splinters from municipally owned woodlands.
- Other facilities have been equipped with specific environmental improvements: photovoltaic solar panels at the Hermitage of Santa Caterina; "A" certificate energy installations at L'Estartit Infants' School; the production of solar thermal energy at the Municipal Sports Centre; and the biomass installation at the L'Estartit school and multi-purpose meeting hall.

|| Management of publicly owned woodlands

Most of the Montgrí Massif, including its main summit Muntanya Gran, is owned by the municipality, and is included in the catalogue of woodlands of public utility. Municipally owned woodlands are administered by the local council using sustainable methods of woodland management to ensure they are well maintained and give them greater resistance and biodiversity. A woodland management plan is implemented to improve the landscape, foster the use of land for pasture and maintain biodiversity. A hunting management plan regulates hunting rights within the woodlands, and multiple initiatives are taken for the prevention of forest fires.

|| Waste recycling

In recent years the municipality has experienced a progressive increase in the quantity of waste collected for recycling, with a corresponding reduction in the refuse to be disposed of. Thus, 47% of the waste generated in the municipality in 2016 was recycled. In general terms, waste generation diminished in 2016 compared with 2015, with an increase in selective collection. The increase in the collection of organic material was particularly noteworthy. In 2016 a transfer plant came into operation, which reduces the number of journeys required for the transporting of waste.

Restoring environments LIFE Nature projects



The projects carried out by the municipality are:

By 2018 Torroella de Montgrí-L'Estartit Municipal Council have completed three projects included in the European LIFE Nature programme, the aim of which is to co-finance initiatives to restore, maintain, conserve and enhance habitats and species of flora and fauna considered to be of European interest. The projects carried out by the municipality are:

- ≡ The restoration and management of the lagoons and coastal ecosystems in the Baix Ter area.
- ≡ The restoration of the habitat of amphibians and the Mediterranean turtle in the Baix Ter marshlands.
- ≡ The removal of constructions and recovery of the ecological functioning of the coastal systems of La Pletera.

LIFE Nature projects were established for the de-urbanisation and ecological reconversion of the La Pletera district, together with the restoration of the lagoons and habitats of the Baix Ter.

|| La Pletera: a fine example of ecological reconversion

In 2014 the process was initiated for the de-urbanisation and ecological reconversion of La Pletera, a district that had been threatened by a development project, and in which in 1986 a boulevard and six residential blocks had been constructed. The restoration of the area cost 2.5 million euros, with 75% of the financing provided by the European Union, and the rest by local administrative bodies such as the Catalan Government, the University of Girona, Tragsa, and the Girona Provincial Council. The project has enabled the marshland system to be re-established, restoring the area to its rightful ecological value. It is now already possible to observe the overall appearance of the restored system of lagoons as originally conceived as part of the LIFE Pletera project. Once the planned initiatives had been completed, a maintenance and conservation plan was established in view of the

considerable impact of human presence on the site, especially during the summer.

Raising environmental awareness makes up the second part of the project. This involves showing the importance of the conservation of ecosystems for reducing the ecological footprint. Educational activities are organised at this site, and footpaths have been established for the exploration of the ecosystem.



Commitments to sustainability

- Support for local and supra-municipal policies that guarantee the preservation and enhancement of the landscape, ecosystems and habitats.
- A clear determination to put a stop to disorderly urban growth. The restriction of land eligible for building and the extension of areas classified as rural. The protection of areas of ecological value.
- The adoption of programmes that raise awareness of the natural heritage among local inhabitants and visitors to the area.
- Support for business activities that encourage an awareness of ecological values, and the introduction of private measures linked to sustainability objectives.
- The maintenance of plans for waste recycling and sustainable urban mobility.
- The prioritisation of energy efficiency and energy saving projects.
- The reduction of CO2 emissions in line with international targets
- Support for agricultural areas and fishing activities, and the promotion of local production in a spirit of environmental conservation.

2017, the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development





Torroella de Montgrí-L'Estartit-Medes Islands, one of 2019's Global Top 10 Sustainable Destinations.

Torroella de Montgrí - L'Estartit - Medes Islands has been selected as the "Best of Seaside" destination in recognition of global leadership in offering sustainable coastal tourism. This ranking is compiled by the international association Green Destinations, in conjunction with some 20 organizations that work to promote sustainable tourism.





For further information about services and companies that propose activities in L'Estartit and Torroella de Montgrí, please contact:

L'Estartit Tourist Office

Passeig Marítim, s/n -17258 L'Estartit
Tel. 972 75 19 10 - Fax 972 75 17 49
info@visitestartit.com
www.visitestartit.com

Torroella de Montgrí Tourist Office

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www.museudelamediterrania.cat



**Ajuntament de
Torroella de Montgrí**



**Entitat Municipal
Descentralitzada de l'Estartit**



**Costa Brava
Pirineu de Girona**

