

Signposted itineraries

These are circular routes that return to the starting point, except routes marked with an asterisk (*). The routes are designed to reveal the richness of the natural and cultural heritage of different places within the park and are usually adapted for families.

- 1** 4 hrs 15 min 12 km
PR-C 214 Bufadors mountain range
 Starting point: Montesquiu Castle car park.
- 2** 3 hrs 49 min 10.2 km
SL-C 129 From Montesquiu Castle to Besora Castle
 Starting point: Montesquiu Castle car park.
- 3** 3 hrs 36 min 10.3 km
SL-C 130 Sant Moí
 Starting point: Montesquiu Castle car park.
- 4** 3 hrs 8.1 km
From Montesquiu Castle to Tres Pals pass
 Starting point: Montesquiu Castle car park.
- 5** 45 min 2.4 km
North-facing side of the castle
 Starting point: Montesquiu Castle car park.
- 6** 2 hrs 6.2 km
North-facing side of Les Codines
 Starting point: Les Codines bridge.
- 7** 1 hr 11 min 3.4 km
South-facing side of Les Codines
 Starting point: Les Codines bridge.

Other itineraries that go through the park: GR-151, GR-210, GR-3, the Ter Route and the Way of St James.

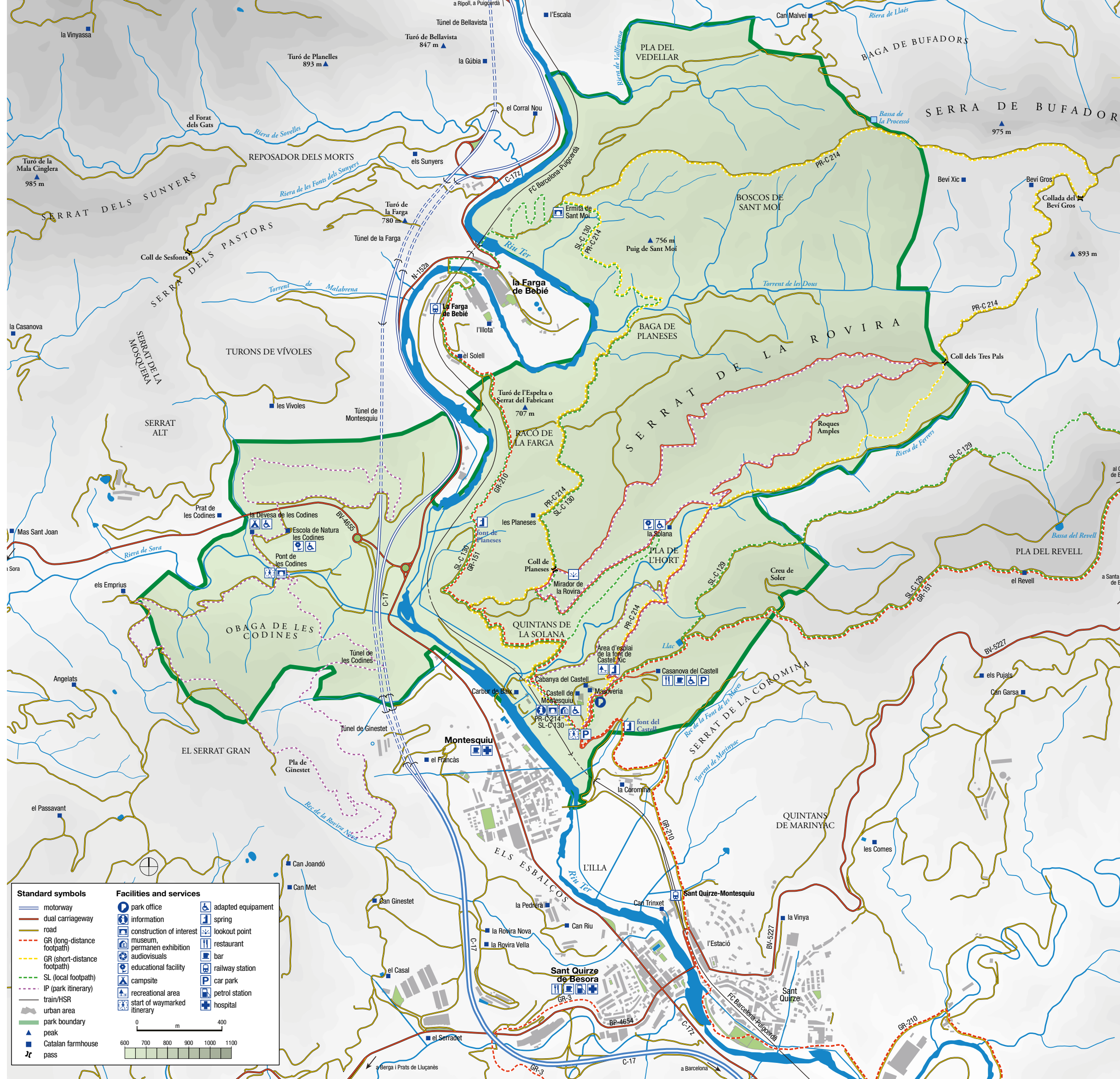
The distances of the itineraries have been calculated with the GooTracking platform and may vary significantly if other measuring systems are used.

GR: a long-distance trail of over 50 km, waymarked with white and red markings.
 PR: a short-distance trail of between 10 and 50 km, waymarked with white and yellow markings.
 SL: a local trail of less than 10 km, waymarked with white and green markings.

- Itinerary
- Approximate duration
- Low difficulty
- Moderate difficulty
- High difficulty
- Total distance
- Leaflet available



Signposted itineraries



Standard symbols	Facilities and services
motorway	park office
dual carriageway	information
road	construction of interest
GR (long-distance footpath)	museum, permanent exhibition
GR (short-distance footpath)	audiovisuals
SL (local footpath)	educational facility
IP (park itinerary)	campsite
train/HSR	recreational area
urban area	start of waymarked itinerary
park boundary	adapted equipment
peak	spring
Catalan farmhouse	lookout point
pass	restaurant
	bar
	railway station
	car park
	petrol station
	hospital

Montesquiu Castle Park



Xavier Vilaregut

Forests and history close to the river Ter. The park is known for its dense oak and Scots pine forests, which are crossed by the meanders of the river Ter. A transitional zone between mountains and plains, its historical points of interest date back to the Middle Ages, as does Montesquiu Castle—a large fortified house built in the 10th century that has been converted into a cultural facility and meeting centre.

KEY INFORMATION:
 Year in which the Special Plan was approved: 1986
 Supervisory body: Department of Territory and Sustainability of Barcelona Provincial Council
 Councils: Montesquiu, Santa Maria de Besora, Sant Quirze de Besora and Sora
 Surface area of the park: 546 ha

Parcs de Catalunya
Xarxa de Parcs Naturals de la Diputació de Barcelona
 Parc del Castell de Montesquiu, Espai Natural de les Guillerries-Savassona, Parc Natural del Montseny, Parc Natural de Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac, Parc del Montnegre i el Corredor, Parc de la Serralada Litoral, Parc de la Serralada de Marina, Parc Natural de la Serra de Collserola, Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat, Parc del Garraf, Parc d'Olerdola, Parc del Foix



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Montesquiu Castle Park



O. Clavera



O. Clavera



Roger Arquimbau

Useful advice for visiting the park

Good practices

• The protected natural spaces are places where one can practise outdoor activities and learn about our natural and cultural heritage. Use the network of marked paths and trails.

Use of bicycles

- Respect the priority of pedestrians and avoid causing inconvenience to them.
- Adjust your speed in accordance with the type of path. On trails, the maximum speed permitted is 20 km/h.
- Cycle only on roads, forest trails or paths that are more than three metres wide.
- For justifiable reasons, in certain areas of the park cycling may be restricted temporarily or permanently.

Motor vehicles

- Only authorised vehicles may travel within the park.
- Use the designated car parks.

Visit the park safely

- Plan your route and always bring a map to guide you.
- Try to always walk on trails or paths that are clearly marked or signposted.
- Bring water and food supplies and wear appropriate footwear, comfortable clothing and a coat, as well as a cap, sunglasses and sunscreen.
- If you are in a group, do not lose sight of your companions. Do not ever abandon or leave anybody behind.
- Strong wind can cause branches and other elements to fall. There may be a greater risk of accidents on peaks and crests. Avoid open spaces during high wind conditions.
- When it is foggy it is easy to become disoriented; do not leave the main path.

• In the event of downpours or thunderstorms, stay away from peaks, isolated trees and cave entrances. A dense and leafy forest may provide suitable refuge.

What to do with litter

- It is the responsibility of visitors to take the waste that they have created away with them and to recycle it.
- Rubbish bins can be found in the castle car park.












How to help prevent fires

- It is prohibited to light fires or barbecues outside authorised areas.
- Exercise caution with anything that could cause fires, such as cigarettes, driving/motorcycling or dropping litter.
- Raise the alarm if you detect any suspicious smoke. Call 112.

Pets

- Pet owners are responsible for their behaviour not disturbing the activity of other visitors.
- Keep your dog on a lead. You must take special care with regard to the behaviour of your dog or other pets, particularly when close to people, country houses or flocks.
- The garden lawn is for the use and enjoyment of all; animal excrement must be picked up and taken with you.
- Never abandon pets; such negligence is classified as an offence. Animals can become aggressive, as well as being harmful to natural ecosystems.
- In addition to being kept on a lead, dangerous dogs must also wear a muzzle. By dangerous dog we mean that which is classified as such in law, but also any dog that behaves aggressively.

Other recommendations

-  If there is a risk of snow or if it has snowed, check road and trail conditions on the park's website. Drive cautiously and respect the signals and signs of guards and wardens.
-  Free camping in any form is not permitted, including motorhomes.
-  Human presence and activity have left behind a host of architecture and art over the years. This rich cultural heritage must be respected.
-  Respect the nature and the peacefulness of the environment; avoid making unnecessary noise.
-  Respect agricultural and stockbreeding activities.
-  Logging is a traditional activity in most of the parks. Tree felling is regulated by the Forestry Act of Catalonia and park regulations.
-  To protect native wildlife populations, it is prohibited to release pets or non-native animals that could displace them from their habitat.
-  Hunting is regulated by law and is only allowed in existing hunting grounds. If you encounter a wild boar drive, respect the signs and do not stray from the paths.
-  Horse riding must be restricted to public paths; cross-country riding and riding on firebreaks or streams and riverbeds is not permitted.
-  If picking mushrooms, do not damage the forest by using tools or digging into the earth.
-  Holly is a rare tree that provides food and shelter for many species of animals. It is protected by law and collecting any part of the tree or its flowers is an offence.

Features

Introduction

Spanning the municipalities of Montesquiu, Sant Quirze de Besora, Santa Maria de Besora, Sora and Vidrà, in the subregion of El Bisaura, Montesquiu Castle Park is known for its dense forests, crossed lengthwise by the meanders of the river Ter. A transitional zone between mountains and plains, the park is part of the Serres de Milany-Santa Magdalena and Puigsacalm-Bellmunt Area of Natural Interest and is home to places of great beauty, including forests, meadows, pastures, hermitages and old country houses. The park's historical points of interest date back to the Middle Ages, as does Montesquiu Castle—a large fortified house built in the 10th century that has been converted into a cultural facility and resource centre.

Vegetation

The park's weather conditions—a blend of Mediterranean and Central European climatological conditions—allow for different types of forests within the park. Towards the entrance, the park is dominated mainly by downy oak, which is accompanied by sycamores, whitebeams and other flat-leaved trees typical of upland areas. Scots pine can be found both on the south-facing slopes, as an accompanying species alongside oak trees, and forming stands as a primary species on plains and in north-facing areas. Beech wood forests emerge in the coolest north-facing areas, accompanied by species such as lime trees, whitebeam trees, sycamore trees and holly trees. The driest parts of the park, with a lower incidence of frost, are home to holm oak stands typical of more Mediterranean environments. Riverside vegetation, arranged in narrow strips along the banks of watercourses, features lime, ash, birch, willow and alder trees. The land surrounding country houses, which was once used to grow crops, is today used for extensive grazing. Significant plant diversity can be found on the park's outer limits.

Wildlife

Thanks to an array of different habitats, the park is home to a wide variety of wildlife. This includes over 30 mammal species—most of those that have been identified in Osona—two of which are critically endangered in Catalonia: the otter and the water vole. The presence of the river Ter gives rise to a sizeable number of aquatic birds, the most notable of which include the white-throated dipper and the grey wagtail. Birds of prey are also well represented in the park. Diurnal birds of prey include the goshawk, the sparrow-hawk and the buzzard, while nocturnal species comprise the tawny owl, the barn owl and the scops owl. Of particular note among the other birds found in the park are four species of woodpeckers, most of the forest passerine birds found in upland areas and a number of passerine birds that prefer open spaces, such as the crested lark, the tree pipit and the red-backed shrike. As far as reptiles are concerned, the park is home to the ladder snake, the Montpellier snake, the viperine snake, the grass snake, the slow worm, the western green lizard, the smooth snake, the ocellated lizard, the common wall lizard, the Spanish wall lizard and the large psammodromus. Amphibians include the common toad, the fire salamander, the Pyrenean brook salamander, the midwife toad, the parsley frog, the stripeless tree frog and the marsh frog. Finally, over 400 butterfly species have been identified in the park, among them a very healthy *Spanish moon moth* population.

Architectural heritage

The grounds of the park have been used for human settlement since time immemorial. The most well-known pieces of architecture date back to the Early Middle Ages and include, most notably, the castle and a fair number of country houses and auxiliary buildings known as *badius* or cabins. Montesquiu Castle, which was fully remodelled in the early 20th century, is a reminder of El Bisaura's long history, which began under the protection of Besora Castle and continued through to the early 14th century, when the feudal lord of the territory, Jaume de Besora, established his residence at Montesquiu Castle. Notable lords of the territory of Besora include Gombau de Besora (11th century, personal adviser of Countess Ermessenda) and Galceran de Besora (chosen as president of the Generalitat—the Catalan Government—in 1377 and possibly born in Montesquiu Castle). The most recent owners of Montesquiu Castle were Lluís de Descatllar and, later on, Emili Juncadella, who ceded the castle to the Barcelona Provincial Council. Other important medieval buildings in the park include the small Sant Moí church, Les Codines bridge, what remains of the Llaés trail and traces of the primitive *strada*. It is highly likely that country houses such as Les Codines, Les Planeses, Sant Moí and the castle farmhouse, and those of Casanova and La Solana have medieval origins, although the former underwent major alterations in the 18th century and the latter were rebuilt in the 20th century. Worth noting are the *badius* or cabins: auxiliary buildings characterised by a large semi-circular arch on their front façade.

Cuisine linked to the park



Parc a Taula is an economic development programme promoted by Barcelona Provincial Council aimed at private agents who, through their activity, assist in the conservation, enhancement and promotion of protected natural areas. For more information you can visit parcs.diba.cat/web/parc-a-taula.

Information points and centres

PARK OFFICE

Masoveria del Castell
08585 Montesquiu
(+34) 934 727 600 / (+34) 938 529 234
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INFORMATION POINTS

Montesquiu Castle Information Point
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MONTESEQUIU CASTLE

Castle opening hours:
From November to March: weekends and public holidays from 10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.;
from April to June and from September to October: weekends and public holidays from

10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.;
July and August: Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.
Castle tour times:
At 10.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m., 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m., and (only from April to June and September to October) at 4.15 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Tours can be arranged in advance for groups of 20 people or more on weekdays, public holidays and weekends.

RECREATION AREAS

La Font del Castell Xic Recreation Area
Montesquiu Castle Park
A few metres away from the Masoveria del Castell
08585 Montesquiu

See opening hours at
<http://parcs.diba.cat/web/montesquiu>



Your opinion helps us to improve

You can fill out the questionnaire by scanning the QR code

