

ECOTOURISM
REGIÓN DE MURCIA

Fill your
rucksack
with *life*



ECOTOURISM
REGIÓN DE MURCIA

Fill your
rucksack
with *life*



Fill your rucksack with life

Ecotourism in Spain offers a responsible, mindful way to discover unique natural areas, respecting their biodiversity and culture and fostering environmental conservation and local community development. The Region of Murcia is an outstanding destination in this regard, with a wide variety of landscapes and natural areas in which to experience nature at its purest while remaining firmly rooted in a commitment to sustainability.



Alongside committed businesses recognised for their excellent practices, we invite you to explore a land of rich contrasts and authentic experiences. Come to the Region of Murcia and fill your rucksack with unforgettable experiences and lasting memories, connecting with our flora, fauna, landscapes and those who live there.

These pages offer you a peek at our main ecotourism destinations and natural areas, along with suggestions and experiences, accompanied by specialised companies that will make your journey a unique experience. This catalogue also highlights our most important natural resources, interesting facts about them and when to

arrange your visit. In sum, everything you need to enjoy authentic ecotourism in the Region of Murcia.





Ecotourism Treasures of the Region of Murcia

What can't you miss on your upcoming ecotourism trip to the Region of Murcia? Choosing just one experience won't be easy. Nature here is generous and diverse: unique plant and animal species, awe-inspiring landscapes, surprising geological formations, local products renowned well beyond the Region and a sense of hospitality rooted in a profound respect for the environment. And to top it all off, an exceptional climate that beckons you to enjoy nature year-round.





The extraordinary land and marine biodiversity of the Region of Murcia affords endless ecotourism opportunities. Set sail in search of cetaceans, spot sea turtles, flamingos and large Iberian birds of prey, such as the golden eagle and Bonelli's eagle, or discover emblematic bird species

such as the rufous-tailed scrub robin and the trumpeter finch. Marvel at unusual plants, contemplate fossil dunes, sandstone and limestone formations, salt marshes, riparian forests and woodlands, or wander endless pine forests where time seems to stand still. Here, every landscape is an invita-

tion to sense, discover and enjoy nature in a respectful, authentic way.

The most characteristic animal species here include the loggerhead sea turtle, the otter, the black wheatear, the common chameleon, the Spanish toothcarp, the golden eagle, the genet, and



the common flamingo... And some of our most emblematic plant species are the Aleppo pine – our most widespread tree species –, the Cartagena cypress, esparto grass, the Mediterranean fan palm, the strawberry tree and the dune juniper... Did you know that the blossoming of the fruit trees in the Region of Murcia has become a major ecotourism attraction? Peach, almond, citrus, apricot and plum trees, all bursting into colour in places like Cieza, Mula, and the Ricote Valley, not to mention the lavender fields of Moratalla.

MORE INFO







Ecotourism Destinations and Natural Areas

Close your eyes and think about your favourite landscapes. The natural environments you love the most. The sea, mountains, forests, wetlands... Now open them. You're in the Region of Murcia. We look forward to welcoming you with a wealth of natural landscapes, thanks to our privileged location between European and North African influences. This crossroads of cultures and climates is home to an astounding variety of ecosystems, reflected in a careful selection of protected natural areas



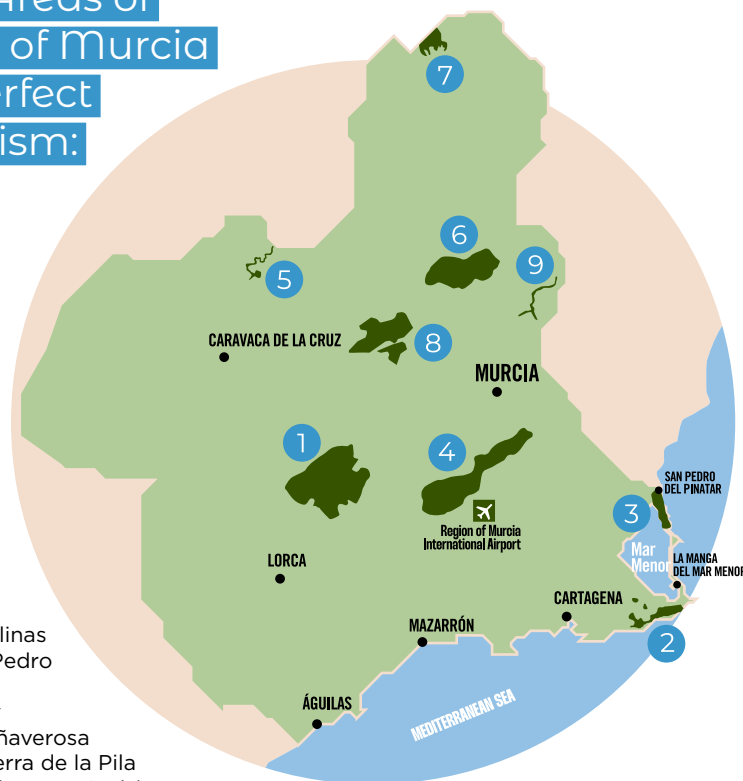
ranging from mountains inland to the Mediterranean coast.

One quarter of the Region of Murcia is protected land, which is a clear example of our commitment to conservation and responsible enjoyment of nature. The natural areas described below were chosen for their exceptional conditions for ecotourism activities, inviting you to discover, feel and connect with a unique setting teeming with life. Countless reasons to fill your rucksack with life.

In the Region of Murcia we also have two accredited ecotourism destinations: the Ricote Valley and Sierra Espuña, territories that are particularly committed to responsible, sustainable nature tourism.

Protected Areas of the Region of Murcia that are perfect for Ecotourism:

1. Parque Regional Sierra Espuña
2. Parque Regional Calblanque, Monte de las Cenizas y Peña del Águila
3. Parque Regional Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro
4. Parque Regional El Valle y Carrascoy
5. Reserva Natural Cañaverosa
6. Parque Regional Sierra de la Pila
7. Monumento Natural Monte Arabí
8. ZEC y ZEPA Sierras de Ricote y La Navela
9. ZEC Río Chícamo



MORE INFO





Nature Calendar

The weather is perfect 365 days a year to enjoy nature at its best in every season. Ecotourism year-round in the Region of Murcia. Special activity programmes have been designed around some of the region's natural attractions, like the blossoming of certain plants, featuring guided tours, local cuisine, festivals and more.

We kick off the year amidst the pink and white flowers of thousands of almond trees blossoming in the fields of Mula, Alhama, Totana (Sierra Espuña), Altiplano, Abanilla, Fortuna and Campo de Cartagena. Then, from February to early spring, the peach trees in Cieza fill the air with fragrance and paint the Vega Alta





a vibrant, almost fuchsia pink. During the flowering season, orange and lemon blossoms blanket the lower and middle Segura River plains, enveloping visitors in their sweet scent as they stroll through the Ricote Valley.

Another colour tied to an incomparable fragrance is the purple of the lavender fields. With the arrival of summer, Moratalla adopts the mauve hues of lavandin, sage, spike lavender and oregano. July is the best month to visit this corner of the highlands in the northwestern area of the Region of Murcia.

In addition to these floral wonders, the calls of the Iberian lynxes can be heard in the winter in the Highlands of Lorca, where the mating

season of these endangered felines takes place, following their much-awaited return to our Region. In turn, colourful bee-eaters take flight in the summer, while loggerhead turtles come ashore to nest on our beaches, and autumn sees the ripening of the fruit of the strawberry tree, the Spanish juniper, the dune juniper and the Mediterranean fan palm, heralding the mating season of the Spanish ibex. On the steepest slopes of the Region of Murcia, the males of this majestic mammal species can be seen locking horns, in an authentic spectacle of sound.

[MORE INFO](#)



Ecotourism Experiences and Committed Businesses

Protecting and promoting natural and cultural heritage is a core element of authentic ecotourism. In the Region of Murcia, we have accredited ecotourism companies, destinations and natural areas holding sustainability awards for tourism in protected areas and their surroundings, thus ensuring that best practices are adopted and that there is a strong commitment to the environment.

Ecotourism in the Region of Murcia is based on conserving our resources without negatively impacting the environment or the climate



while at the same time driving local development and supporting the communities that live there. A responsible way of travelling that leaves a positive footprint and fills your rucksack with life.

Enjoy excellent guided activities and authentic eco-

tourism getaways, charming places to stay, restaurants featuring local and seasonal products, and more, always offered by local businesses and producers committed to their region and to nature conservation.

[MORE INFO](#)



ECOTOURISM
REGIÓN DE MURCIA

Fill your rucksack with *life*



www.visitregiondemurcia.com



Costa Cálida
**REGIÓN
DE MURCIA**
SPAIN



Cofinanciado por
la Unión Europea