

Natural Reserve of Posets-Maladeta

Declared a Natural Reserve by the law of 3/1994 June 23rd, passed by the Cortes of Aragon, it spans an extensión of 33.267 hectares, comprising the municipal areas of Benasque, Gistaín, Montanuy, Sahún and San Juan de Plan.



Located in the central Pyrenees, the massifs of Culfreda, Bachimala, Bagüenola, Posets, Perdiguero, Maladeta-Aneto and Ballibierna, harbour the largest concentration of peaks surpassing three thousand metres in altitude, the most extensive glaciers in the Pyrenees, nearly a hundred minor lakes and several endangered species of flora and fauna.

That is the reason this part of the range is an excellent representation of the high mountain ecosystems of the Iberian Peninsula.

Within the territory of the Reserve, one may find the greater part of the Natural Monuments of the Pyrenees Glaciers, and its territory, although population centres are not included within its 33.267 hectares, has traditionally been taken advantage of by the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages.

Elements of Interest

The altitude of the entire territory ranges between 1.500 metres and the 3.404 metres of the Aneto's peak, the highest one of the entire range, which is also part of the Reserve.

One of the most outstanding values of this National Reserve is the glacier formation of its mountains, where we may find the remains of moraines, with many rocks or small lakes as souvenirs of cirques, to which must be added the numerous karstic phenomena.

The high mountain lakes are presently undergoing a process of deterioration due to climatic changes as well as the impact of tourism on these beautiful spaces, constituting a threat to many vegetable and animal species, which can only survive in the high mountainous bioclimatic areas.

One of the most interesting birds to be found in the territory of the Natural Reserve is the grouse, a species whose call is a delight for the lucky few who get to hear it, although due to the small number of specimens and their tremendous fear of human beings, this is not an easy task.



