

NATURA 2000 ESTÉREL AT SEA

See the site map in the «Natura 2000 Estérel» section to locate these places.

1 | Le Sec de Fréjus

This underwater rocky plateau rises to -47m and offers drop-offs filled with enclaves like coastal reefs that can reach -300m. This diversity of natural habitats and its remoteness from the coast allows life from plankton to marine mammals to proliferate throughout the water column.

Indeed, it is not uncommon to meet the **Loggerhead turtle**, the **Bottlenose dolphin** or the **Fin whale**, as these species in transit find here great food availability and tranquility.

2 | Le Cap Dramont et l'Île d'Or

Made up of **Posidonia herbarium**, **underwater cliffs** and many **shoals**, it is home to a variety of habitats that attract many species. Dusky groupers, spiny lobsters, White seabream, Common dentex and Great barracuda are the recurring boarders of this area and are the delight of underwater divers.

3 | Le Cap Roux

Rocky areas, seagrass beds and coralligenous droppings are all prime choice habitats for fish and nursery for juveniles. This wealth of habitats, rich in fish, has led to special protection : **«Cap Roux fishing cantonment»**.

4 | L'Île des Vieilles et le Plateau de la Chrétienne

The ancient wrecks of the «Plateau de la Chrétienne» are not the only riches of the area. True **pool of biodiversity**, **coralligenous seabed** in this sector allowed the settlement of a diverse fauna locally gathering more than **600 species of invertebrates** and about **forty species of fish**.

5 | La rade d'Agay

This harbor shelters one of the rare and best preserved Mediterranean-born **reef-barrier of Posidonia**. This reef consists of a Posidonia herbarium outcropping the surface of the water and forming a calm water lagoon allowing the development of many species of fish.

SECURITY

CROSS MEDITERRANEAN

Radio channel : VHF 16

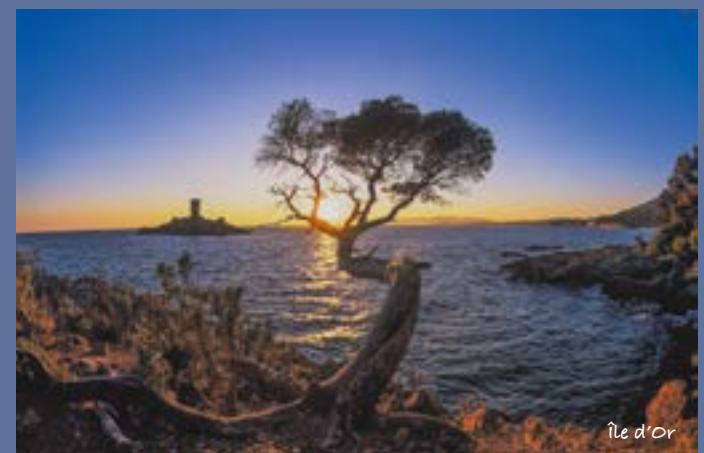
Emergency number : 04.94.61.16.16

WEATHER

Always check the local weather forecast before you go out: the wind and the conditions of navigation or swimming can evolve quickly !

• Météo-France

32 50 or 0 899 71 02 + the 2 numbers of your department
(1,35€ then 34 cts per minute - Rate September 2010 www.meteofrance.com)



Île d'Or
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NATURA 2000

E S T E R E L
M A R I N E P A N E

A remarkable land-sea continuity
offering striking landscapes...
An exceptional natural heritage to preserve.



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CAVEM

Created on the first of January 2013, the "Communauté d'Agglomération Var-Estérel-Méditerranée" (CAVEM) accounts now for more than 110 000 habitants in its 5 municipalities : Adrets de l'Estérel, Fréjus, Puget-sur-Argens, Roquebrune-sur-Argens and Saint-Raphaël. The Natura 2000 Cell of the Pôle E3D (Environnement, Développement Durable et Désinsectisation) of CAVEM controls 3 Natura 2000 sites : «Estérel», «Embouchure de l'Argens» and «Val d'Argens bas».

Natura 2000 Estérel site

7 200 marine hectares & 7,800 land hectares



île des Vieilles

WHAT IS NATURA 2000?

Natura 2000 is a European network of natural sites designated for their rarity or fragility.

Born from the commitment of the European Union at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, this network aims to ensure the long-term survival of species and habitats of Communal interest. Namely at high conservation stakes at the European level. Natura 2000 combines this protection with the sustainable development of territories according to their economic, social, cultural and environmental specificities, mobilizing all stakeholders.

Natura 2000, is :

27 000
European
sites

96
million
hectares
protected

1753
sites in
France

30
Natura
2000 sites
in the Var

A PROTECTED SITE...

Classified site, Fishing quarter, Pelagos Sanctuary, Natura 2000 site, so many protections that testify to the strong heritage value of the site.

Classified site : since 1996, the Natura 2000 Estérel site is classified as a landscape for its entire land area, and a coastal strip of about 400 meters. This classification reserved for the most remarkable sites with natural dominant, of which particular landscape character must be rigorously preserved, gives it a strong protection with regards to urban planning.

Cap Roux fishing cantonment : with these 445 hectares, the cantonment prohibits recreational fishing and professional fishing and thus preserves exceptional marine biodiversity. Nautical patrols ensure a daily presence in the area (see below).

The Pelagos Sanctuary : a maritime area that is the subject of an agreement between Italy, Monaco and France for the protection of marine mammals, proposes a code of conduct to all users so as not to disturb the life of cetaceans.

More information on <http://www.sanctuaire-pelagos.org>



Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

NATURA 2000 ESTEREL



See the section «Natura 2000 Esterel in the Sea».

A MANAGEMENT SERVING NATURE AND MEN

Nautical patrols : the **Natura 2000 Estérel cell**, the **city of Saint-Raphaël** and the **Prud'homie de pêche** provide patrols at sea in order to make boaters aware of and respect the site's fauna and flora.

Scientific monitoring : The Cap Roux fishing cantonment is subject to scientific monitoring by the University of Nice. For its part, the Natura 2000 Estérel Cell coordinates the monitoring of the Reef in "Rade d'Agay", given its fragility and rarity.

The facilities : in 2004, the town of Saint-Raphaël set up an area of **organised anchorages** in the "**Rade d'Agay**". These ecological anchorages can accommodate boaters during the summer season, while preserving the flora and fauna of the site. Following this dynamic, the Natura 2000 Estérel Unit and the Town of Saint-Raphaël are interested in extending these **ecological anchors** to other activities (diving sites, regulatory markup), through Natura 2000 contracts.

Registered in the Natura 2000 European network since 1998, the **Natura 2000 site of the Estérel** is located in the cities of **Saint-Raphaël, Fréjus and Bagnols-en-Forêt**, in the southeastern limit of the department of Var. It is a **mixed land-dominated site** covering **15,000 hectares**, of which 52% is terrestrial and 48% is marine.

Various geological phenomena have shaped the landscape of this **volcanic massif** over time, with striking contrasts, between the flamboyant red rhyolite and the azure blue of the Mediterranean.

The maritime part of the **Natura 2000 Estérel** site stretches along the coastline, from "Arène Grosse" beach (Boulouris) to "Abel Baliff" beach (Trayas) and, offshore, on a strip ranging from 2 to 5 km (from east to west). It thus presents a remarkable land-sea continuity on a mainly rocky profile interspersed with Posidonia herbarium and sand extending offshore by very rich coralligenous drop-offs.

A **document of objectives** (DOCOB) was produced in a concerted manner with all the actors of the territory (elected officials, users, managers, owners...). It is both a diagnostic and an orientation document for the management of the site. The DOCOB of Estérel was approved by **prefectural decree of April 26, 2013**.

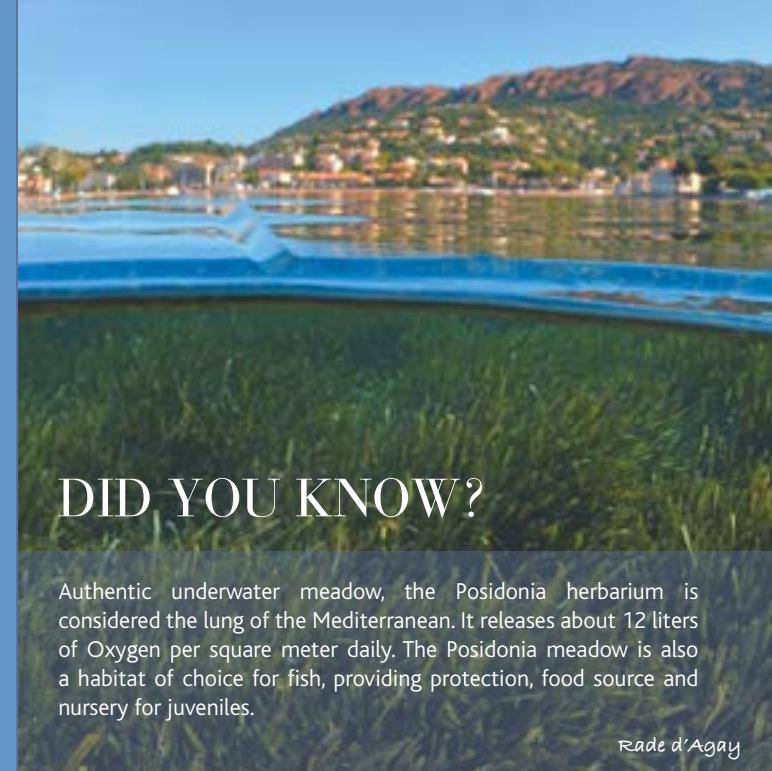
Since 1 September 2013, the "Communauté d'Agglomération Var-Estérel-Méditerranée" (CAVEM) has been running the Natura 2000 Estérel site (implementation of the DOCOB actions).

Can you identify them during your water ride ?

The Dusky Grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*) • The Painted comber (*Serranus scriba*) • The Striped Red mullet (*Mullus surmuletus Linnaeus*) • The Damselfish (*Chromis chromis*) • The Salema (*Sarpa Salpa*) • The Ornate Wrasse (*Thalassoma pavo*)



Solution sur notre site internet : <http://esterel.n2000.fr>



DID YOU KNOW?

Authentic underwater meadow, the Posidonia herbarium is considered the lung of the Mediterranean. It releases about 12 liters of Oxygen per square meter daily. The Posidonia meadow is also a habitat of choice for fish, providing protection, food source and nursery for juveniles.

Rade d'Agay

ECO-ACTIONS AT SEA

- Prefer anchoring on sandy areas or floating anchors. Raise the anchor directly above the boat. To help you, DONIA - Free App for Smartphone allows you to visualize in real time the nature of the seabed. More information on www.donia.fr
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning products (clear water + Marseille soap, mechanical cleaning).
- Do not use a marine toilet. Equip your boat with black water tanks instead. Many ports offer drain systems.
- Respect the marine environment when scuba diving (do not damage the seabed, do not feed the fish ...).
- Fishing: Observe the prohibitions (Grouper, corb fish ...), fishing authorization periods, quantities and minimum catch sizes (eg. Red Mullet > 15 cm, Sea bream > 23 cm, Seabass > 30 cm).
- Choose mineral sun protections that dissolve in water.
- Sort your waste and once on the ground, throw them in the bins provided for this purpose.