



La Pélite

The red gorge shows up in your mailbox when you least expect it.

Discovering...

The protected natural areas in Haut-Var

In the Var upper valleys, there are two types of protected natural areas: a national park and a nature reserve. They are two spatial planning tools which aim to preserve and emphasize natural, geological, and human heritage.

National parks are composed by a core region and a buffer zone. They cover huge areas of more than tens of thousands of hectares, like Mercantour National Park (PNM), created in 1979. In the core regions, agriculture and business activities, car traffic, plant picking, hunting, breeding, and noise pollution are strictly regulated.

Nature reserves are often smaller (from a dozen to a few hundred hectares) and focus on preserving fragile and one-of-a-kind ecosystems. Created in 2012, the rules in the Gorges de Daluis Regional Nature Reserve are not as strict as in Mercantour National Park.

The management methods are also different.

National parks are administrative and public institutions, managed by civil servants and supervised by boards of directors and Scientific Councils.

The Gorges de Daluis Regional Nature Reserve (RNR) is co-managed by the Alpes d'Azur federation of municipalities and the LPO-PACA (Bird Protection League.) Other reserves can be managed differently, for example by public institutions or foundations.

The Gorges de Daluis Reserve is characterised by its location. Indeed, it is partly located in Guillaume, in the buffer zone of Mercantour National Park. As a result, the 2 protected areas work hand in hand to harmonise their management and research effort.



Meeting...

A park ranger

Jean-Paul Mandine was born in Estenc. He grew up in this grazing valley lined with larches, where the Var River springs. His father was a breeder, and his grandfather a shepherd.

When the park was created, Jean-Paul took the opportunity to go back to his mountains to work outdoors. For 38 years, he has been working as a Mercantour National Park's ranger (8 years in Saint-Etienne de Tinée, 30 years in Entraunes.)

This versatile job allows him to work on various missions like law-enforcement, fauna and flora monitoring, school and public activities, local development, and works. Moreover, Jean-Paul is knowledgeable when it comes to pastoralism; he has witnessed the problems caused by the return of the wolves in the valley.

It is always enlightening for any member of the reserve to work with him. We thank him from the bottom of our hearts!

Upcoming...

Discovering birds

Starting in March, the PACA region's Bird Protection League (LPO) organises a **four days' training** to the Alpes d'Azur territory representatives. The theme will be "Bird tourism". Inscriptions, dates, and information (in French) at nathan.trouve-rie@lpo.fr

UNESCO training

On **15th March 2018**, in Guillaumes, the park and the reserve organise a collaborative training that aims to explain the application to UNESCO to involved local institutions.

Inscriptions (in French) at slarbouret@alpesda-

Did you know...?

In the reserve

For the wellbeing of both wildlife and pets, dogs must be kept on a leash. Some species, sometimes rare and endangered, are very sensitive to disturbance (like the ocellated lizard.)

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