



# La Pélite

UNESCO special



We wish you all  
a happy new year!

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

## Discovering...

### UNESCO World Heritage

A World Heritage site is a landmark or area recognised worldwide for its one-of-a-kind value. World Heritage sites benefit from extra protection and will keep filling future generations with wonder. To this day, 1,007 cultural and natural sites are on the List, such as the Taj Mahal in India, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, or the Egyptian pyramids.

Being selected by the UNESCO means the site will be internationally recognised for its unique value. It aims at protecting the site on the long term, providing it with due international recognition, visibility, and a long-term tourism boost. This spotlight supports the economy of the site, ensuring its sustainability beyond its own borders.

## Meeting...

### The application of the Mediterranean Alps

Together, Parc National du Mercantour (France) and Parco naturale Alpi Marittime (Italy) form "Alpi Marittime – Mercantour" European Nature Park. The parks, along with several other partners, like the Gorges de Daluis Nature Reserve, are involved in a transborder project called "Mediterranean Alps".

The Mediterranean Alps are an exemplary place for education, research and protection. The application is based on the geological uniqueness of the place that witnessed more than 400 million years of major geological events.

The resulting one-off topography is characterised by high altitude and climate contrasts, from which emerged unique ecological and



biological processes. It resulted in a wide variety of landscapes and noteworthy habitats in which live many animal and plant species. It is one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, with 269 endemic species. Considering its natural assets, the Mediterranean Alps applied as natural heritage; it meets three criteria defined by UNESCO: Earth's history, ecological and biological processes, and biodiversity.

Naturally, the Gorges de Daluis Nature Reserve is a key element in this application as natural heritage. Indeed, it is an essential link in the geological history of the area: the pelite tells us 280-million-year old stories from when tectonic plates were pulled apart.

## Did you know...?

The pelite found in the Daluis gorge and the Dôme de Barrot mountain range is a rock that was once buried deep under the sea. After the Alps subduction, they were exposed to the open air, up to 2,000 metres above sea-level!

## Upcoming...

### "Mercantour: landscapes and faces" exhibition

Until **August**, you can discover this exhibition in the Nature Centre of the national park, in Valberg, and learn more about the particular landscapes in Mercantour National Park.

To support the application



"Together, let's show that  
our heritage is unique and  
that it deserves the UNESCO..."



[www.facebook.com/Alp.Mediterranee](http://www.facebook.com/Alp.Mediterranee)

Pictures: Mediterranean Alps © R. Wacogne - Gilmarite © Y. Vessely  
Pelite © T. Corveler - Gilbert Mari © S. Larbournet