

DISCOVERING VOLCANIC LANDSCAPES

Geographical fieldtrips for schools



TOURISM

A CASE STUDY: HOW TO MANAGE A NATURAL PARK IN A HUMANIZED PERI-URBAN LANDSCAPE

SITES VISITED

Can Serra

Can Jordà: the Natural Park HQ

La Fageda Cooperative

TOPICS

Management of a protected landscape

The impact of human activities on the landscape

Reconciliation of landscape conservation and economic activities

Social impact: how sustainability affects the local population

CONTENT

Population dynamics: the impact of built-up areas and possible solutions

Relationship between the environment and human activities

Tourist and leisure activities: the pros and cons of being a well-visited area

Environmental risks and benefits: how to conserve and manage the landscapes



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First of all, in groups students will be given one of the following roles to play during the activity:

- Local business such as a restaurant working in the tourist trade
- Environmentalist
- Natural Park Director
- Farmer
- Tourist
- Local mayor

Students will analyze the information they gather and draw conclusions in terms of the role they are asked as a means to understanding the conflicting interests at work in a protected area. Each group will be given information on their interest group's motivations and aims and will study a particular problem or conflict (e.g. the building of a new road).

Our meeting place will be the car park at Can Serra in the heart of the Natural Park, where we will provide an introduction to the Natural Park (its basic characteristics, management, populations, etc.) and begin the visits to different sites to analyse the elements and activities that characterize this protected area (e.g. picnic areas, carparks, information centres, signs, leisure facilities, footpaths). Each group will work separately, noting down the main features of the Park and drawing conclusions in the context of their different roles.

After lunch we will walk along one of the Park's most popular trails as far as Can Jordà, the Park's HQ, where we will be able to visit a display on its aims, activities and results. Each group will have to analyse the pros and cons of the Park's management plan in terms of their particular interest group.

The walk then heads to La Fageda, a cooperative producing dairy products situated in the heart of one of the Park's natural reserves. This business venture is in fact a foundation that provides work for people with learning disadvantages and is a good example of good business practices within the context of a protected area. Here too we will learn about the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, a quality label awarded to fifteen local businesses that accredits their products and services as compatible with sustainable development.