

A close-up profile of a bird's head, likely a Golden Eagle, showing its white, downy feathers, a yellowish-brown eye, and a dark, hooked beak. The background is a blurred green.

Bird study and Observation centre  
"MAS DE BUÑOL"

Comarca del Matarraña - Teruel - España

# The Region and its surroundings

The Matarraña Region is situated within the Autonomous Community of Aragon, in the north west of Teruel province. Its 18 municipalities cover a land area of 933 Km<sup>2</sup>, and have a resident population of approximately seven thousand inhabitants. Practically the entire region falls within the river valley of the Matarraña river.

The enormous environmental wealth of the Region is due to its Mediterranean climate and the waters brought by the Matarraña river (one of the few unspoilt rivers in Europe) and its tributaries. The combination of these factors accounts for the privileged surroundings of this entire geographical area within Aragon.

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The Matarraña Region stands out for the excellent state of conservation of its natural environment as well as for its interest in development.



# A bit of history



Since 1990, José Ramón Moragrega, entrepreneur and owner of the “Mas de Buñol” rabbit and vulture farm, after a concerted day to day effort has managed to convert the sporadic visits by griffon vultures into a spectacular project where visitors can watch hundreds of scavengers in their natural habitat on a daily basis.

Given the extent and attraction of the project, the Authorities finally gave the go ahead in May 2000 for the installation of the feeding point, and the “**Fundación Matarranya Nature**” was set up with support from private bodies. It aims to conserve, study and reintroduce species into the area and in this way preserve the area’s enormous environmental heritage.

# The Foundation's objectives



- To protect, reintroduce and conserve protected species
- Environmental education and awareness
- To promote scientific tourism and ecotourism
- To apply new technologies to observation, assessment and study
- To promote sustained development in the area

# Species



## Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

They can reach a wingspan of 2.6m and are found practically all over the Iberian Peninsula forming colonies in gorges and rock faces.

These birds are born gliders that scarcely flap their wings and quickly gain altitude by imperceptible movements of their tail.

These are one of the most numerous birds that visit Mas de Buñol.

## Black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)

This is the largest vulture and reaches a wingspan of 3 m.

Although their main diet are carcasses, remains of rabbits, squirrels and lizards have been found in their nests which leads us to believe that they also hunt live prey.

They build nests in cork trees, quejigo oaks and acorn trees and some of them have been spotted in the vicinity of Mas de Buñol.



*More and more people are becoming aware of the importance of preserving scavenger species. Since the 60's scavengers have made a strong recovery, and Spain in general and Aragon in particular are an ideal place for their development.*

### **Bearded vultures (*Gypaetus barbatus*)**

This is one of the most majestic birds due to its outline and habits. It is also one of the most difficult birds to spot.

It is believed to have nested and lived in the Matarraña area during the XIX century.

With a wingspan of 2.5 metres and weighing 7 Kg. this is one of the birds that we are trying to reintroduce into the area, creating a combination of scavenger birds which is the only one of its kind in Europe.



### **Egyptian vulture (*Neophron Percnopterus*)**

This is a smaller vulture than the ones described above, reaching a wingspan of up to 1.65 m.

This scavenger with its curious habits is a regular at Mas de Buñol but, because it is a migratory bird (the only vulture that migrates), it can only be seen at certain times of the year.

# Regulations for visiting the observatory

The “Mas de Buñol” observatory aims to be a non-intrusive instrument which is respectful of the life of the birds that carry out their activity there. It has therefore set down a series of regulations, such as:



Cell phones and other devices which emit acoustic signals must be turned off.



Visitors are asked to refrain from speaking loudly so as not to disturb the birds.



Filming and photography are not allowed inside the precinct.



Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the observatory



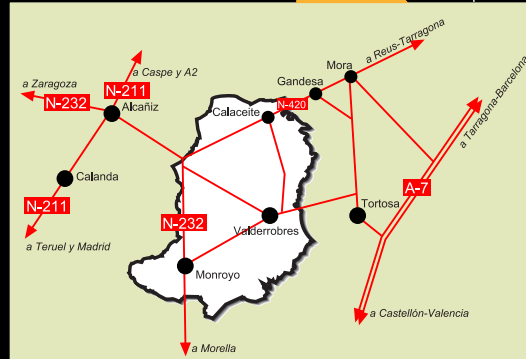
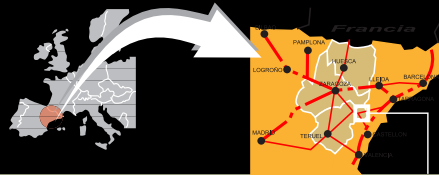
Try not to wear very bright clothing and make sure your clothing is comfortable and discrete.

The pace of visits and the routes are decided on by the guide who will provide you with all the information you need for a pleasant and interesting visit.

# How to get here

Approximate distances from:

Barcelona: 200 Km.  
Valencia: 250 Km.  
Zaragoza: 130 Km.  
Madrid: 400 Km.  
Castellón: 170 Km.  
Teruel: 190 Km.



Fundación  
**MATARRANYA**  
Nature

*A unique spectacle in Europe.  
Observe wild birds in their own habitat,  
every day of the year and at a specific time.*



**Reservations and information phone numbers:**

Fundación Matarranya Nature:

677 174 845

Comarca del Matarranya:

978 890 886 - [www.matarranya.org](http://www.matarranya.org)