**FAUNA**

Due to the variety of environmental conditions, the Valley contains a great wealth in species of fauna, some of which are endemic species of the Pyrenees. It is worth highlighting, within this great diversity, the group of the bearded vultures, of great importance to ecosystems, involved in their conservation and helping to maintain their stability.

Standing out among the amphibians and reptiles are the endemic Pyrenean newt specimens, Pyrenean frog and the Pyrenean newt toad.

This is an exceptional location for birds. Due to its importance it has been declared a Site of Special Protection for Birds (SPB), with notable presence of the bearded vulture (a species in danger of extinction), white-billed wagtails, clangorous woodpecker or red kite among others.

During the mammals, the king of the high peaks in the chain are. Also present are the wild boar or odocoileus, the fox or vixen, the seral or tarapante, several types of mammals, or rodents, as well as hare. But without a doubt the most emblematic species is the brown bear or ursus, cataloged as a species in danger of extinction.

**DATOS DE INTERÉS**

Before starting a visit, it is best to go to the Centre of Interpretation, where you will be informed of the opportunities offered to you in the natural area according to your interests and needs.

**CENTRE DE INTERPRETACIÓN**

In order to observe the diverse fauna, the use of binoculars is recommended.

Camping is not allowed in any modality.

There is restricted access for motor vehicles to certain trails; follow the signage.

Do not leave the marked trails.

Unrestrained animals are not allowed.

Existen infraestructuras adaptadas y zonas reservadas para el uso de discapacitados funcionales.

**ADRESSES OF INTEREST**

Servicio Provincial de Agricultura, Ganadería y Medio Ambiente de Huesca
Natural Protected Areas
Riuda del Argo, 6 - 22001 Huesca - TEL: 974 25 13 96
info@provincial.conaragonesa.es
Office of Socioeconomic Development of the District of Jacetania
desarrollo.jacetania@provincialconaragonesa.es - TEL: 974 37 50 13
Visits to the Centre of Interpretation: Sarga - 974 30 50 61
A PARK IN THE PYRENEES

The Western Valleys Natural Park is located at the northwest end of the Pyrenean Pyrénées. It is the natural land border with France and to the east with Navarra. It stretches through the headquarters of the local Angèle Scheller, Oria, Beherrers and Labièrres Rivers.

Its relief has been marked by the action of glaciers, which sculpted slender peaks while they dug cirques and U-shaped valleys, as well as depressions that brought about today's lakes (mountain lakes). These, due to the deposition of materials by the rivers, tend to fill up, creating small lakes or places where the water "sticks to" - creating meanders such as in Aguna Tarres. Due to the characteristics of the terrain, the water flows very slowly, creating numerous underground siphons (a phenomenon known as karstic

AN HISTORIC PAST

The Western Valleys form a territory that has been populated since ancient times, as evidenced by numerous megaliths (2500-1500 BCE) found at the base of the valleys. The territory has witnessed the presence of the Romans, whose marks are shown in numerous bridge arches, among them the ancient Roman town of Bearn in Béarn, capital of the Pyrenees, which witnessed the battle of Tours in A.D. 732 where the Umayyad caliphate was defeated, leading to the rise of the Frankish empire.

CULTURAL VALUES

Traditional agricultural activities have contributed to modeling a beautiful landscape that integrates rural elements with the bustle of towns. However, in these valleys, interesting examples of popular architecture have been maintained, with stone houses and well-preserved historical centers. The signs of identity include the traditional costumes, the folk music, and the language.

FLORA AND VEGETATION

The relief of the Natural Park, the diverse types of soil, and the associated differences in elevation and altitude, together with its location, is reflected in the extraordinary flora. With about 1,500 plant species, 7 of them are accidental to the place, typical of steep and rocky areas.

The picture located below the high rocky peaks shows what are known as−little rock−lakes, which form pastural landscapes that have maintained large numbers of flocks from earlier times. Some of these lakes are located in the shade of the forest, where they are only accessible to the uninhibited during the summer months, thus forming a true "fairy tale.

FOREST MASSES

Traditionally associated with forest utilization, the woods have maintained their role as a natural resource of this territory. The influence of the Atlantic climate, with its abundant rain, brings a dense forest of birch, chestnut, and spruce, which cover the most exposed areas. In the sunny slopes, the pine or oak stands and the chestnut or oak, while the black pine occupies the tallest and highest zones.