



Biodiversitat  
Sitges

# The Essentials

6 species that are representative of the native biodiversity of the Balmins - Aiguadolç coastal zone.



**SITGES**

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# Sea Fennel

*Crithmum maritimum*



Sea fennel is one of the coast's most characteristic plants. Adapted to very high salinity and rocky environments, it is the perfect attraction for the many species of insects that pollinate it.

It is a plant with succulent and fleshy leaves that are edible, which some of Sitges' restaurants use as an accompaniment for different traditional seafood dishes.

Respect it and admire its floral composition; it's a real eye-catcher!

# French Tamarisk

*Tamarix gallica*



Strong, robust and of medium height, the French tamarisk is considered to be a deciduous tree or shrub that is native to the Mediterranean coast.

During the spring it blooms with small whitish and pink flowers that mark a colorful landscape along many of Sitges' beaches and its seaside promenade.

As a mythological and cultural curiosity, the French tamarisk was the favorite plant of the Greek god Apollo..

# European Fan Palm

*Chamaerops humilis*

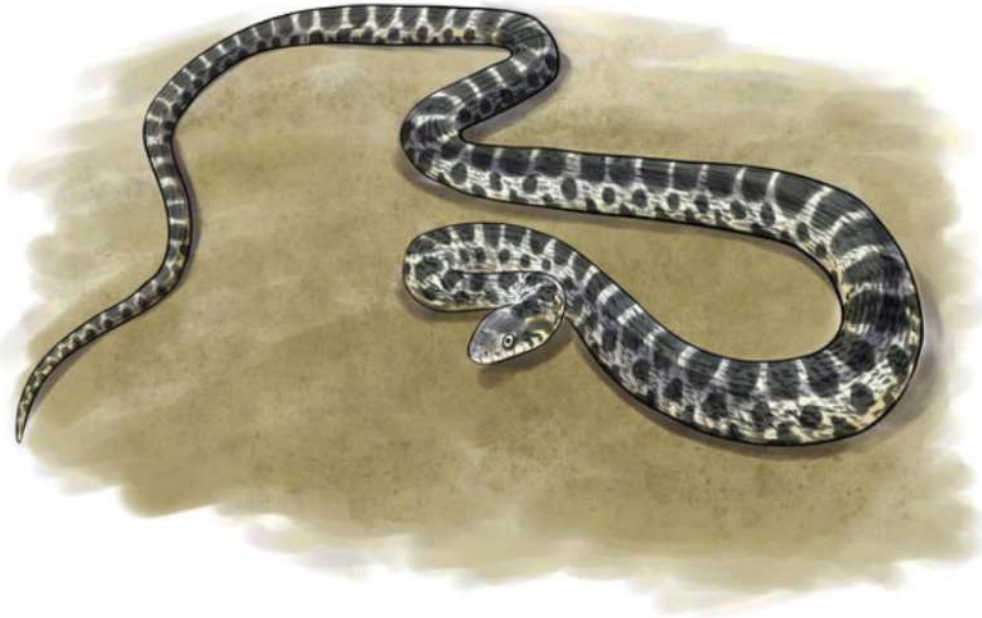


Emblem of the Garraf region, the European fan palm is the only palm tree native to southern Europe. Known here as the "bargalló", Mediterranean dwarf palm, and broom palm, its fruit are reddish dates that are the perfect food for foxes and other animals.

The European fan palm is a protected species that today enjoys a better level of conservation and protection but still suffers from threats and issues including climate change and the introduction of invasive species.

# Horseshoe Whip Snake

*Hemorrhois hippocrepis*



The most unknown in this area due to how difficult it is to observe it, the horseshoe whip snake takes advantage of the sunniest and hottest hours of the day among the rocks and stone walls of Balmins and Aiguadolç.

A tireless predator of geckos, lizards and insects, it is harmless to us and will run away at first sight to take refuge.

Its conservation level is high because it is an endangered species and in decline due to a loss of habitat and transformation of the territory.

# Moorish Gecko

*Tarentola mauritanica*



Very common, the Moorish gecko is one of the most characteristic reptiles of urban environments where it can be easily observed during summer nights in places with light searching for insects to feed on.

A great equilibrist, it has an incredible biological capacity to stay totally vertical on walls and edges thanks to the "micro-nails" on its feet. In addition, after an attack or threat, it can shed its tail to later grow a new one.

It helps us control pests and diseases because it can feed on hundreds of mosquitoes in a single day!

# Audouin's Gull

*Ichthyaetus audouinii*



Flying high, the Audouin's gull is the only species of gull that is endemic to the Mediterranean. Large in size and with a gray and whitish plumage, its beak has a characteristic maroon color with a yellow tip.

In Sitges we can see it all year round, but it can be easily identified during the spring and summer months.

It is one of the most endangered gull species in the world and just a few years ago, it had more than half of its nesting population in the Ebro Delta Nature Park.

Keep an eye on Sitges' sea horizon to discover and enjoy it!



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