

MUSEU DE CIÈNCIES NATURALS DE MENORCA



The new Menorca's Natural Science Museum is located at the Binisues manorial farmhouses which date from the 18th century.

From now on, you can already visit Menorca's Natural Science Museum, a museum project which will clearly be a reference in studying, preserving, releasing and everything related to history and natural science, with special attention to Menorca's rich and varied biodiversity.



This museum was created by naturalist brothers Juan and Miguel Carreras Torrent and it is situated in the large and manorial Binisues farmhouses which date from the 18th century. It is surrounded by plenty of nature and it has got wonderful views to the Menorcan countryside. Binisues is to be

found along the main road between Ferreries and Ciutadella, at Km 36, taking the deviation to Ets Alocs, which belongs to Ferreries municipality.

Menorca's Natural Science Museum must be visited by all nature lovers. It offers a unique path for all visitors to know the rich biodiversity variety from Menorca represented in the different sections of natural science. You can also learn and admire the nature biodiversity from other parts of the world.

The presentation took place on the 12th of January 2013 at Binisues restaurant, alongside the museum, with an attendance of about 250 guests. The Foundation *Menorca's Natural Science Museum. Carreras Torrent Collections* was also introduced during the same event.

The speech was carried out by Juan and Miguel Carreras Torrent, who formed the foundation, and all the patronage members.

Among the several aims included in the foundation statutes, additionally to Menorca's Natural Science Museum creation and arrangement, there are many others like creating and promoting actions and activities focused on investigation, scientific studies, sensitise, environmental education, divulgation, preservation and maintenance of the natural heritage and environment, and any other performance related to biodiversity and natural science, specially on Menorca's and Balearic Islands boundaries.



The different collections that you can see in the Menorca's Natural Science Museum are the result of more than 42 years of work and scientific studies carried on by the two naturalists Miguel and Juan Carreras Torrent. You can appreciate the great richness of animals, vegetables, minerals and mushrooms which can still be found on Menorca and in other parts of the world.

Nowadays, the following collections are exhibited permanently:

-In the zoology section, vertebrates are represented by more than 200 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, all of them from Menorca. The specimens are exhibited in different sections under their natural habitat.



- Sample of more than 100 fish species from Menorca.



-There are more than 6,000 samples of invertebrates depicted, from which more than 2,000 are from Menorca. A wide variety of insect species, arachnids, myriapods and crustaceans stand out among all of them. It is important to highlight the daytime butterflies collection from Menorca. All the existing species on Menorca are shown and you can also find four new butterfly species which were unknown on Menorca and the Balearic Islands until today.



- In the malacology section, bivalve and gastropods are represented by more than 1,000 species from Menorca and the rest of the world. All the species of land snails from Menorca which are known nowadays are shown at the museum.



- In the geology section, you can see about 300 species of minerals from around the world exhibited in different showcases. There are real samples of rocks, minerals and fossils from Menorca too. Through different posters, you can see how Menorca has evolved from a geological point of view for more than 500 million years.



- The mycology section is entitled “Mushrooms from Menorca”. You can see about 1,000 mushrooms which represent some 225 different species. Every mushroom is a unique piece made of clay, shaped and painted by hand. Mushrooms are exhibited in different showcases, depicting their natural habitat. They are replicas of mushrooms found in the forest.

There are different posters with information both from a scientific point of view (explanation of mushroom parts, breeding, their role in nature, ecology...) and a more practical point of view (poisonous mushrooms, edible mushrooms, culinary value...).

Nowadays we are working to expand the collection in over 500 more samples and the idea for the future is to exhibit about 3,000 samples representing upon 700 species, all the species which can be found on Menorca.



The museum provides over 1,000 nature documentaries in the audiovisual part. Furthermore, there are about 90 pictures on this same topic.



All these collections are permanently exhibited at Menorca's Natural Science Museum and they are constantly being expanded both in the number of samples and the way of exhibiting them.

In addition, the museum has got a scientific fund of more than 70,000 samples, mostly arthropods (insects, arachnids, myriapods and crustaceans) from around the world.

We have been working deeply in scientific investigation topics for some years and some of the exhibited samples helped us to introduce four new butterfly species which had never been quoted before on Menorca or the Balearic Islands.



A new beetle species has recently been catalogued for the Balearic islands and a new subspecies for Menorca. It is known as *Potosia cuprea ferreriesensis*, in honour of the town where the Carreras Torrent brothers first found it. It is certainly the first beetle to have the name of Ferreries.



The creation of a new section dedicated to botany is also very close. There could be about 400 pictures of plants and flowers from Menorca with an index card including their scientific name, common name, date and location of the picture and other scientifically interesting data.

In order to carry out all these projects and activities, the Foundation is signing different collaboration agreements with museums, universities, research centres, governments, local and regional entities, societies and any type of entity, public or private, to promote the accomplishment of any activity related to the general interest purposes of the Foundation.



The Carreras brothers alongside Esteban Manrique, director of the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Madrid, and Jorge Miguel Lobo, deputy director.



Miguel Carreras with the director of the Natural Science Museum in Barcelona, Anna Omedes.



The Carreras brothers accompanied by some members of the scientific community during their visit to the museum.

Although you have the possibility to appreciate the beauty of all the exhibited species, do not forget that the real importance lies in the scientific studies and the importance which all species have got for the ecological balance and preservation of the planet.

We hope that the visit to Menorca's Natural Science Museum helps people to become more acquainted with nature and understanding it in a better way, may help you to love and respect all the species and their natural habitats. Respect and protection are the best heritage that we can leave to the following generations.

At Menorca's Natural Science Museum people believe in those environmental values and issues which helped Menorca to be declared a biosphere reserve in 1993. In 2013 we are commemorating the 20th anniversary of Menorca's biosphere reserve declaration, so our museum has got a big opportunity to give value to the great natural richness, culture, science and teaching that its collections and scientific fund hold. All the work done at the museum should be extremely helpful, among other things, to promote nature tourism favouring Menorca to become a reference in this type of holiday activities.