

Marbella, August 2026

NEWSLETTER



Sea Daffodil: beauty born from the sand



At the height of summer, when many plants seem to fade under the heat, the **sea daffodil (*Pancratium maritimum*)** reminds us of the strength and beauty of **dune flora**. Its spectacular white flowers emerge from the sand like small natural jewels, perfectly adapted to such a demanding environment as the dunes: **intense sun, wind, salinity and scarce water**.

At this time of year, it is in full bloom, offering us one of the most beautiful sights along our coastline. But its beauty is also fragile. Every flower that remains undisturbed helps keep the dune alive and forms part of the delicate balance of this ecosystem.

That is why, when we come across one, the best thing we can do is **admire it, photograph it and respect it**, avoiding stepping on the vegetation or picking the flowers.

Protecting dune flora means protecting our beaches, our landscape and the biodiversity of our coastline.

What looks dry is alive



In summer, many **dune plants** may look dry or faded, but in reality they are adapted to survive in extreme conditions: **heat, wind, salinity and scarce water**.

Dune vegetation plays an essential role. Its roots help to stabilise the sand, encourage dune formation and protect the beach from erosion. That is why, even when some areas may appear fragile or “lifeless”, they are part of a highly valuable ecosystem that we must respect.

At **ProDunas Marbella**, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of **not uprooting plants, not walking outside the designated paths**, and taking care of the **Ecological Reserve-Dunes of Marbella** and the “**Dunas de Artola**” **Natural Monument** during the summer months as well.

Nature does not always appear green and lush.
Sometimes, it survives quietly.



Balearic shearwaters off Artola Beach

During one of our outings with schoolchildren to the **Dunas de Artola Natural Monument**, we were able to observe, around **1 km off the coast**, several **Balearic shearwaters (*Puffinus mauretanicus*)**, a species listed as “**Critically Endangered**” in the *Red Book of the Birds of Spain*. In the *National Catalogue of Threatened Species*, its conservation status is considered slightly less severe, where it is listed as “**Endangered**”.

It is difficult to determine exactly how many birds we observed, but using a conservative estimate, there may have been **more than a dozen**.

It is estimated that only around **6,000 individuals** of this pelagic seabird remain. The species breeds only in certain areas of the **Balearic Islands** and, once the breeding season is over, it displays complex migratory behaviour, with some individuals reaching the **Bay of Biscay**, while others remain in the **Mediterranean until well into autumn**.

It is difficult to observe this bird from the coast, as it usually moves through deeper waters, but that day we were lucky. A school of fish close to the shore attracted both the shearwaters and some dolphins. Thanks to our binoculars, we were able to watch them from a distance for much of the morning as they moved around the area alongside several seagulls.





Hulia and Pepa return to the sea on the coast of Marbella

On **Thursday, 13 August**, two loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*), **Hulia** and **Pepa**, returned to the sea after successfully completing their recovery.

- **Hulia** was rescued in Almería last June with plastic wrapped around her neck. She had also swallowed plastic while trying to free herself.
- **Pepa**, meanwhile, was found in March in **Rincón de la Victoria** suffering from a respiratory problem.

After receiving the necessary care and recovering at **CEGMA (Andalusian Marine Environment Management Centre)** and the **Seville Aquarium**, both turtles were able to return to their habitat.

They were released around **two miles off the coast of Marbella**, where Hulia and Pepa began their journey back to freedom.

Stories like these remind us once again of the serious consequences that waste, especially **plastic**, can have on marine wildlife. **Every action counts when it comes to keeping our seas and coastlines free from litter.**



Back to its natural hábitat

We love it when animals can return to the wild!

A few days ago, we were informed that a **common chameleon** (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon*) had been found in the garden of a residential complex. Fortunately, we were able to rescue it in time and take it to the “**Dunas de Artola**” **Natural Monument**, where it was released into a suitable natural environment so that it could continue its life in the wild.

Take a look at the chameleon's colours:

In the rescue photos, the chameleon is very dark, which indicates that it was **frightened**. In contrast, once released onto the branch, it had already changed to a much lighter colour, a sign that it was **calm and relaxed**.

This small rescue reminds us of the importance of acting carefully when we find wildlife in places where it may be at risk. **Every individual matters, and protecting its habitat is essential to ensure its conservation.**

Safe travels, little chameleon!



The dunes are also a refuge for migratory butterflies



During one of our activities, we were able to observe numerous specimens of the **Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)**, a migratory butterfly that at this time of year is making its way from Africa to Europe.

Some even arrived from over the sea, looking for places to rest and feed. On a lantana plant alone, we counted at least **10 butterflies feeding on the nectar of its flowers**.

We also shared this discovery with the schoolchildren, who had the opportunity to see them up close and gain a better understanding of the importance of these natural areas.

The dunes do not only protect our coastline. They also provide **resting, feeding and stopover areas for migratory insects**, as well as for many other species that depend on these ecosystems.

Every observation reminds us of the great environmental value of the **Ecological Reserve – Dunes of Marbella** and the need to continue protecting it.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

