

**BATS**  
IN LA MARCIEGA

**T**here are three known species of bat present on the island: Savi's Pipistrelle (*Hypsugo savii*), the European Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida teniotis*) and Kuhl's Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus kuhlii*). Crevices and other cavities in rocky cliffs and, to a lesser extent, in man-made structures are good shelter for these diminutive flying mammals..

The Savi's Pipistrelle seems to be widespread while the Free-tailed Bat has only been noted in very specific places. There is no recent information about the small Kuhl's Pipistrelle.

Their diet comprises small insects, mainly moths. As dusk falls, on spring and summer nights, it is common to see the Savi's Pipistrelle flitting about, as it goes back and forth endlessly in search of prey in the sky in this setting.

They have an important function because they exercise natural control over many plagues of insects, thus avoiding the use of other pesticides which could damage the ecosystems.

**i**

**FIND OUT MORE:**

- Palomo. L. J., Gisbert J. & Blanco J. C. (eds.) 2007. "Atlas y Libro rojo de los Mamíferos Terrestres de España" [Atlas and Red List of the Terrestrial Mammals of Spain]. Dirección General para la Biodiversidad, SECEM-SECEMU, Madrid.
- Trujillo D. 1991. "Murciélagos de las Islas Canarias" [Bats of the Canary Islands]. Colección Técnica. ICONA, Madrid.

**i!**

Despite the fact that it is virtually impossible to see it, we know that the free-tailed bat is out there hunting because of its peculiar "tic, tic..." metallic call.



**European Free-tailed Bat**  
(*Tadarida teniotis*)

**i!**

The name "free-tailed" is due to the fact that its tail is practically free along its length from the tail membrane.

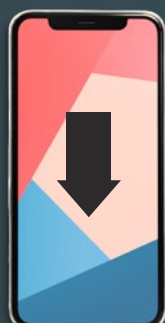


**i!**

The Savi's Pipistrelle is to be found from sea level up to the highest peaks on Gran Canaria.



**Savi's Pipistrelle**  
(*Hypsugo savii*)



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