



European teatree
(*Lycium intricatum*)



Gorse
(*Launaea arborescens*)



Bean caper
(*Zigophyllum fontanesii*)



Brown mussel
(*Perna perna*)

Variety of male sea snail commonly known as "Burgao" (*Osilinus atratus*)



Fuerteventura sea snail
(*Patella candei candei*)



Cory's shearwater
(*Calonectris diomedea*)



Trumpeter finch
(*Bucanetes githagineus*)



Canarian houbara
(*Chlamydotis undulata fuertaventurae*)

FLORA

Rocky coastal halophilic shrubland: The (*Frankenia laevis ssp capitata*), the bean caper (*Zigophyllum fontanesii*) and the shrubby sea-blite (*Suaeda vera*) are particularly common.

Arid nitrophilic shrubland: Plants that require a high amount of nitrates are the most common here. You will mostly find salty and woolly alghueras (*Chenoleoides tomentosa*), European teatrees (*Lycium intricatum*), Mediterranean saltworts and gorse (*Launaea arborescens*).

Tamarisks in the bed of the ravine: tamarisk (*Tamarix canariensis*) and shrubby sea-blite.

FAUNA

Marine life: represented by molluscs and shellfish such as the male "burgao" (*Osilinus atratus*) and the female "burgao" (*Osilinus trapei*), limpets (*Patella sp*), red rock crabs (*Grapsus grapsus*), and Fuerteventura sea snails (*Patella candei candei*), listed as an endangered species, and brown mussels (*Perna perna*).

Among the birds, you can encounter: Canarian houbaras (*Chlamydotis undulata fuertaventurae*), cory's shearwaters (*Calonectris diomedea*) trumpeter finches (*Bucanetes githagineus*), plain swifts (*Apus unicolor*), Berthelot's pipits (*Anthus berthelotii*) and Canary Island stonechats (*Saxicola dacotiae*).

PERMITTED USES

- Access on foot using the authorised tracks and paths.
- Recreational fishing with a rod from the coastline, according to the law in force, except on the upper platform which is a restricted use zone of paleontological value.
- Shellfishing on the shoreline between high and low tides according to the law in force except in the restricted zone.

FORBIDDEN USES

- Damaging the archaeological, geological, biological and ethnographical heritage.
- Leaving inscriptions, signs and drawings.
- Paragliding, hang gliding or delta engine launching and landing, and low-level flights (below 1000 feet high) with any type of aircraft whether with or without an engine.
- Leaving any kind of waste on site.
- Lighting fires.
- Camping and climbing.
- Access to the restricted use zone.

USES REQUIRING AUTHORISATION

Scientific and research activities.
Professional filming or photography for commercial purposes.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE VISIT

- Be careful on the tracks, especially in cliff areas.
- Respect the regulations and signs of the Natural Monument.

REMEMBER
The natural richness of the island is a value to be preserved: YOUR COLLABORATION IS IMPORTANT



Natural Monument
AJJUY



CORE ZONE

🇬🇧 FUERTEVENTURA



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GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION

It is situated in the west of Fuerteventura in the municipality of Pájara bordering Betancuria. It extends over 31.8 hectares.



PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The area was declared part of the Rural Park of Betancuria by the Spanish law no. 12/1987, of 19th June on Natural Areas in the Canaries, and reclassified to its current category by the law no. 12/1994, of 19th December, on Protected Natural Areas. This classification is described in the Spanish Legislative Decree 1/2000, which led to the approval of the revised legal text on Town and Country Planning in the Canaries and Natural Areas. It is considered an ecologically-sensitive area, for the purposes of the law no. 11/1990, of 13th July, on Environmental Impact Prevention.

On a European level, the island is part of the Natura 2000 network; it was declared a Special Protection Area for Wild Birds by the Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds. The management of this natural area is regimented by the conservation regulations which figure in the Canarian Official Gazette no. 2005/102 of 25th May 2005)

In May 2009, UNESCO declared the area part of the Biosphere Reserve of Fuerteventura.

BIOSPHERE RESERVE

GEOMORPHOLOGY

The oldest elements of the Canarian archipelago are located in the Natural Monument of Ajuy. Here are the most remarkable:

Basal complex: formed by ocean sediments, volcanic deposits and lavas crossed by intrusive dyke and plutonic rocks. The oldest rocks are the "ftanitas", sediments of the Jurassic- Cretaceous era (over 100 million years ago) that rose to the seafloor; they are visible in very few places on Earth.

Raised beach: More than 14 metres above the actual sea level, with fossils estimated to be 5 million years old.

Pliocene basalt flow: with pillow lavas from the volcano of Betancuria "Morro Valdés".

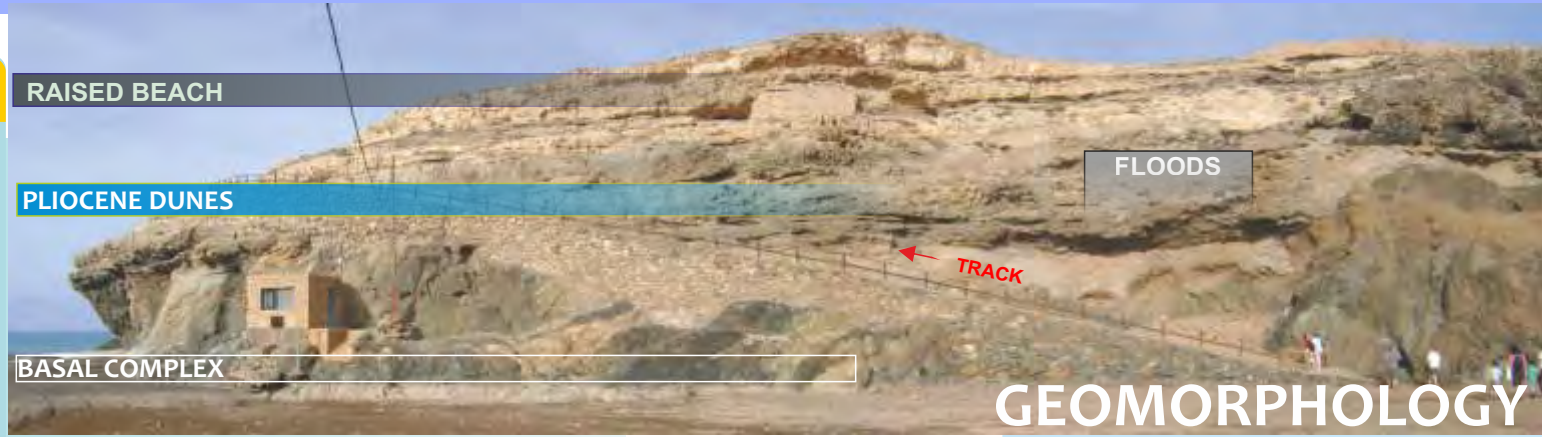
Floods: Rock fragments transported by water.

Pliocene dunes (Calcarenites) formed by fossil remains of seashells, tortoiseshells and seaweed which indicate the existence of a warmer climate.

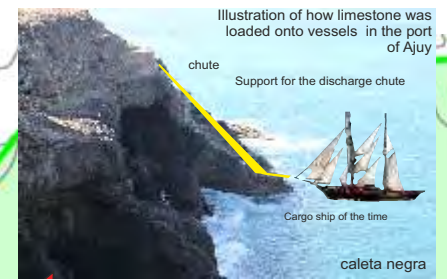
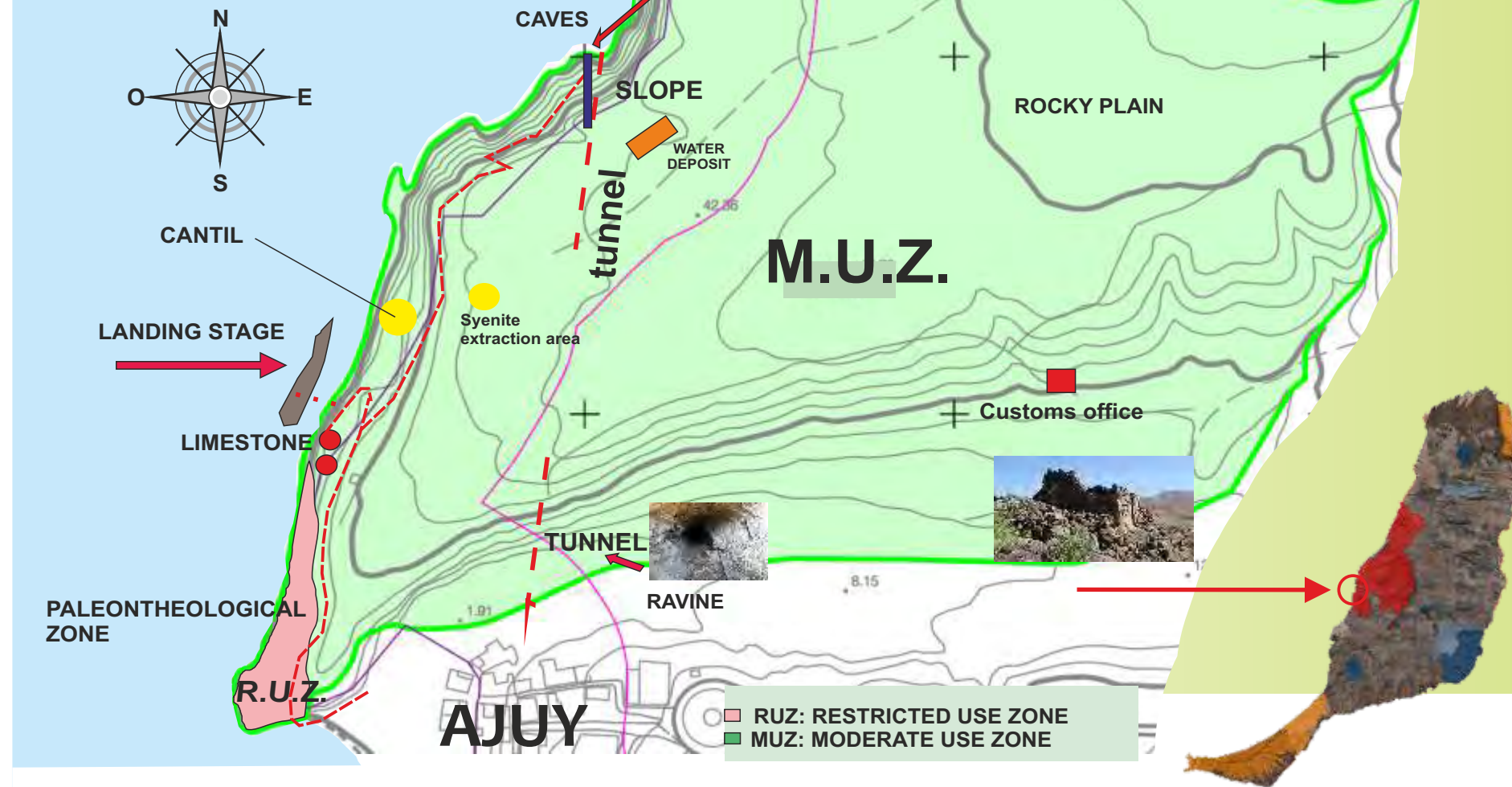
The units that compose the landscape of the Natural Monument of Ajuy are:

The Cantil cliffs: They start at the beach of Ajuy and are formed by eolian coastal sands, mixed with other materials. They have many cavities and recesses, of high aesthetic, geologic and paleontological value, and where a great number of fossil remains can be identified.

La Caleta de la Negra cliffs: They can reach heights of up to 40 metres high and have deep cavities and recesses.



GEOMORPHOLOGY



ETHNOGRÁPHIC VALUES

El Puerto de la Peña: It was the most important port of the island because of its proximity with Betancuria, the former capital of Fuerteventura. Wheat, cattle, lime and other products were exported from this port to the other islands of the archipelago.

The lime industry, limekilns and related activities were at their peak from the 19th century until the end of the 1960s when lime was replaced by cement.

Customs Office: Evidence of the significant sea transport in the area, the office was used to control merchandise. It is situated 500 metres from the urban side of the town.

The slope: Taking advantage of the natural conditions of the rocks, a 50-metre slope was created. It started with a discharge chute at the top of the cliff and ended in a small landing stage, where boats docked to load the stone in the hold.

The tunnel: The idea of building a tunnel between the ravine of Ajuy and shelter of Puerto de la Peña was considered so as to facilitate transport for the fabrication of paving stones. However, the tunnel could not be built and the perforated zone was used to accommodate limestone workers.

