

## NATURAL VALUES

Cuchillos de Vigán is an area formed by a recent lava field, which has undergone intense erosion. The “cuchillos” and the valleys create a beautiful, even landscape of crest and ridge interfluvies which end in a coastline of cliffs and alluvial plains created by the deposition of sediment.

It is a distinctive geomorphological landscape formed by the lava flows of the Jacomar volcano and this is most apparent in the area known as the 'low island' where the lava is intermixed with the coastal relief and its hollows and structures such as small collapsed parts of volcanic tunnels.



A karst, whose slope is so wide that it occupies a great part of the coastline of this Natural Monument, was formed by the many “cuchillos” that cross the area towards the sea, rocky islets and hornillos isolated by lava flowing down the volcanoes.

It is a jewel for palaeontologists: on the coast of Las Playitas a great number of fossils of Jandía fauna can be found, such as large sea snails (*Strombus bubonius*) and red-mouthed rock shells (*Thais haemastoma*).

The site has immense archaeological value as there are aboriginal housing and agricultural structures here.

## PERMITTED USES:

- Hiking in authorised areas.
- Traditional or recreational fishing with a rod from the coast, except in Restricted Use Zones.

## FORBIDDEN USES:

- The introduction of non-indigenous vegetal or animal species of the Protected Area.
- Actions that could imply danger for the conservation of natural or cultural elements of the area.
- Activities that could lead to the deterioration of the heritage of the Natural Monument.
- Camping, camps and RV parking.
- Lighting fires, throwing or leaving objects or litter.
- Shellfishing limpet species, belonging to the Natural Monument, especially on the shoreline between high and low tides.

## USES REQUIRING AUTHORISATION

- Activities related to scientific and educational purposes.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE VISIT

- Do not leave litter on site.
- Wear comfortable and adequate shoes for walking.
- Do not forget to bring sunscreen, food and water with you.
- 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  
**CUCHILLOS DE VIGÁN**



CORE  
ZONE

## **FUERTEVENTURA**



## GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION

The Natural Monument of Cuchillos de Vigán is located between the municipalities of Antigua and Tuineje; It extends over 6,090 ha, and borders the Protected Landscape of Malpaís Grande. The highest mountain is Montaña de Vigán; its peak reaches 462 m. This protected area shelters La Punta de la Entallada, which is the point closest to the archipelago to the African continent.

## PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The place was declared part of the Natural Park of Pozo Negro 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 no. 1/2000, which led to the approval of the revised legal text on Town and Country Planning in the Canaries and Natural Areas.

The monument is an ecologically-sensitive area, and was declared as a Special Protection Area for Wild Birds by the Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds.

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



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**BIOSPHERE RESERVE**

## FLORA

Vegetation is scarce and lichens are the most widely observed vascular plants in the area. There are also gorse shrubs (*Launaea arborescens*) and Mediterranean saltworts (*Salsola vermiculata*).

You may also come across endemic endangered species such as the plant known in Spanish as “col de risco” (*Crambe sventenii*) and the local “conservilla majorera” (*Salvia herbanica*).

On the coast there are different varieties of salt marshes located in Jacomar; they form a beautiful mosaic of colours. You will also encounter balsam spurges (*Euphorbia balsamifera*) on the cliff by the Entallada lighthouse and in the inland mountainous zones. Wild spurges (*Euphorbia regis-jubae*) and verodes (*Kleinia neriifolia*) grow extensively here.

Other species are worthy of note: the common ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*), the slenderleaf ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*) and the plant locally known as “cornical” (*Periploca laevigata*) which is an endemic species that can be found on all the islands of the archipelago but is very rare on Fuerteventura. There is only one specimen in Los Cuchillos de Vigán.



“Cornical” (*Periploca laevigata*)



“Col de risco” (*Crambe sventinii*)



Gorse (*Launaea arborescens*)

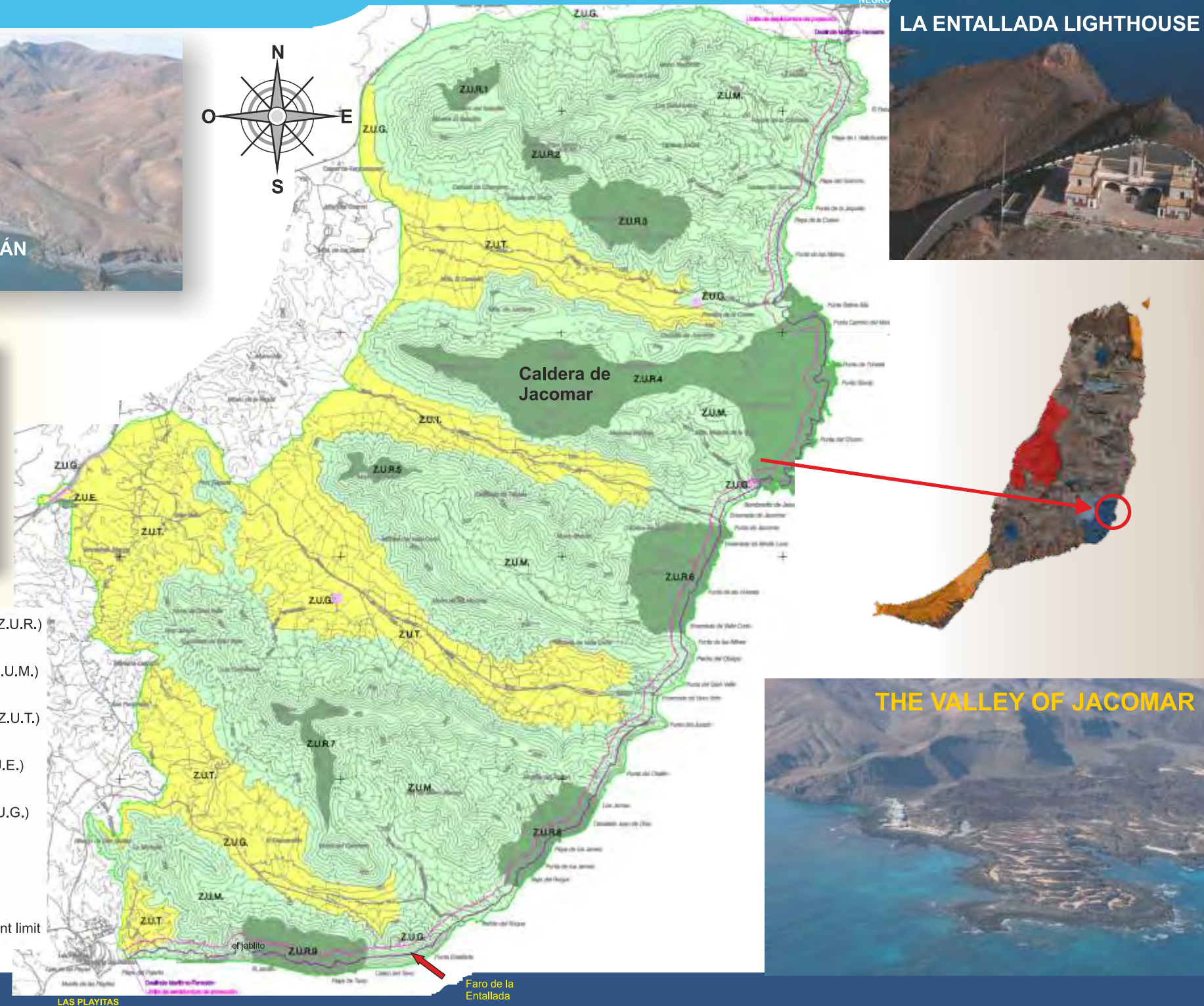


CUCHILLOS DE VIGÁN  
Aerial view



EL JABLITO

- Restricted use zone (Z.U.R.)
- Moderate use zone (Z.U.M.)
- Traditional use zone (Z.U.T.)
- Special use zone (Z.U.E.)
- General use zone (Z.U.G.)
- Sea-land demarcation
- Conservation easement limit



## LA ENTALLADA LIGHTHOUSE



## THE VALLEY OF JACOMAR

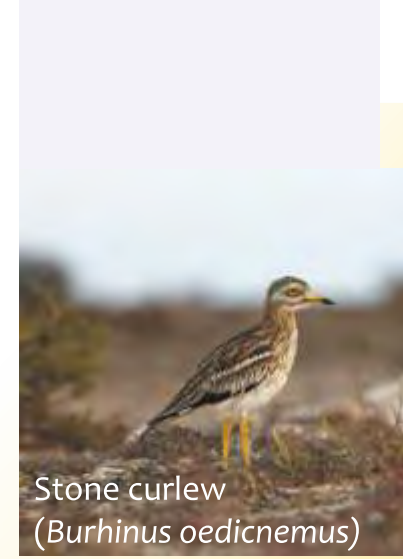


## FAUNA

In this area there is a reptile which is very rarely seen, the locally called “lisneja” (*Chalcides simonyi*) and several species of birds which appear in the Canarian Catalogue of Endangered Species such as the Canarian Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus majorensis*) and the Barbary falcon (*Falco pelegrinus pelegrinoides*). There are also other species such as the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and cory's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*).

The Canarian shrew (*Crocidura canariensis*) and the Kuhl's pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus khulii*) are also part of the wildlife of the area.

Among the invertebrates, one cannot go without mentioning the endangered marine gastropod mollusc: the Fuerteventura sea snail (*Patella candei*).



Stone curlew  
(*Burhinus oedicephalus*)



Common buzzard  
(*Buteo buteo*)



Common raven  
(*Corvus corax*)



Common kestrel  
(*Falco tinnunculus*)



“Lisneja”  
(*Chalcides simonyi*)