

Gorse (*Launaea arborescens*)



Verode (*Kleinia neriifolia*)



'Dog tooth' (*Caralluma burchardii*)

FUTURE PROJECTS

In 1994, the sculptor Eduardo Chillida put forward an artistic project on the mountain (affecting 0.3% of its volume), which would entail the removal of the quarries and would respect the environment, uniting art and nature. Mr Chillida's idea has been declared project of "interest for the Canaries" by the Government of the Canary Islands.

FLORA

The height and geographical orientation of the mountain condenses the humidity of the trade winds, therefore at the top of the mountain you can see wild olive trees (*Olea cerasiformis*) stunted by the livestock which feed on its leaves. A bit lower down the vegetation is mostly composed of lichens (*Xhantoria*, *Ramalina* and *Roccella canariensis*); the latter – also known as archil lichen – is used to obtain natural colouring.

Spiny shrubs such as gorse (*Launaea arborescens*) and European teatrees (*Lycium intricatum*) are also abundant in the area. You will also find bushes such as Mediterranean saltworts (*Salsola vermiculata*), wild spurges (*Euphorbia regis-jubae*), verodes (*Kleinia neriifolia*) and Canary Island daisies (*Asteriscus sericeus*) and plants locally known as 'dog tooth' (*Caralluma burchardii*), locally known as 'dog tooth'.

There are other species that are not so abundant but worth looking for: (*Lotus lancerottensis*) locally known as 'little hearts of Lanzarote', sometimes also referred to as bird's-foot trefoil, creeping plants with yellow flowers, known in Spanish as "turmero" (*Helianthemum canariense*), (*Kickxia heterophylla*) locally known as 'little bird's beak', and common thatching grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*).

PERMITTED USES:

- Walking on the authorised tracks accompanied by an authorised guide.

FORBIDDEN USES:

- Damaging or extracting elements of patrimonial, geological and/or biological value.
- Leaving any type of waste on the natural monument.
- Introducing flora and/or fauna on site.
- Farming activities
- Mine-extracting activities.
- Motorised traffic.
- Walking outside the authorised tracks and without an authorised guide.
- Putting up advertising.
- In general, any activity that may alter nature or the landscape.

USES REQUIRING AUTHORISATION:

- Climbing the mountain is temporarily restricted for management reasons.
- Protection and research actions which are compatible with the conservation of the area.
- Conservation activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE VISIT

- Do not leave litter onsite.
- Wear comfortable and adequate shoes for walking.
- Do not forget to bring sunscreen and water with you.
- Respect the regulations and signs of the Natural Monument.

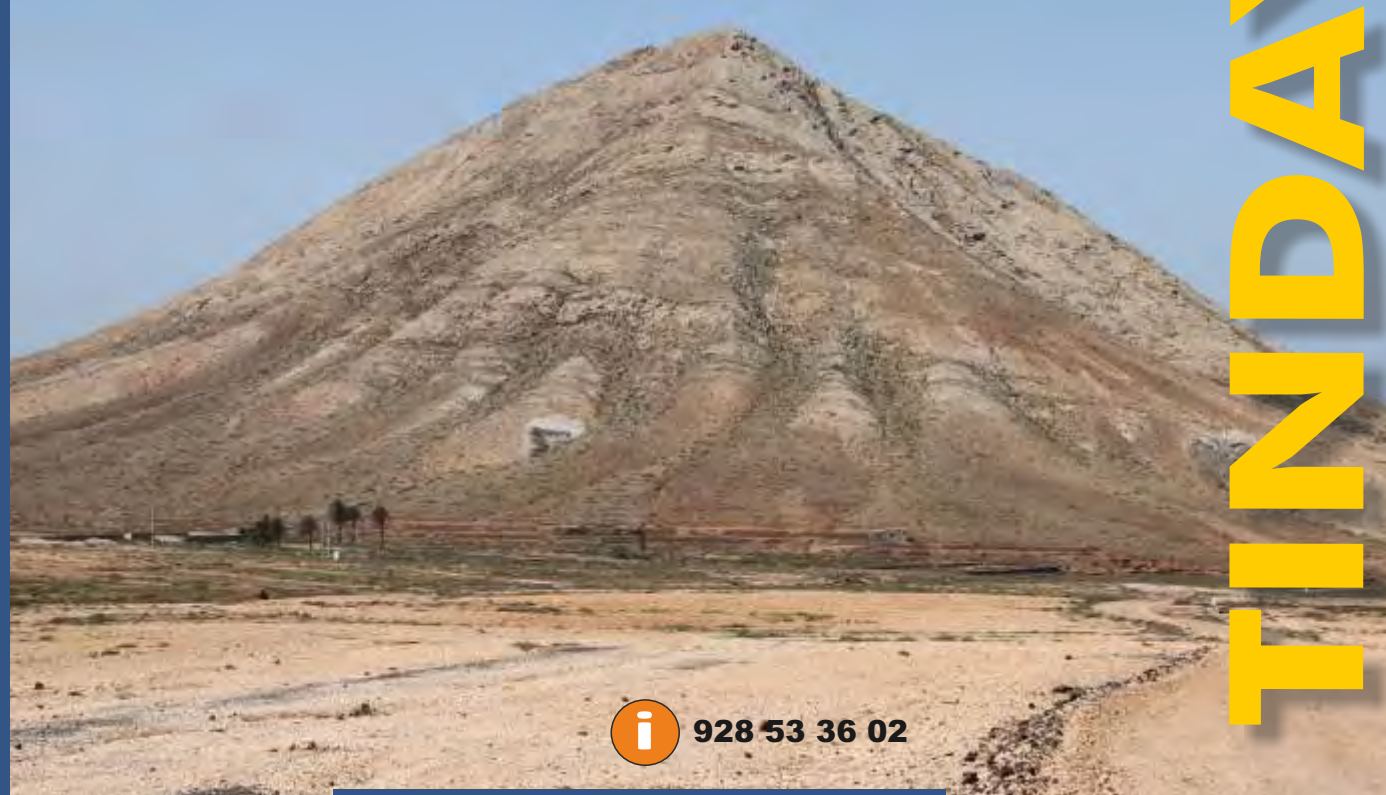


NATURAL MONUMENT
TINDAYA



CORE
ZONE

FUERTEVENTURA

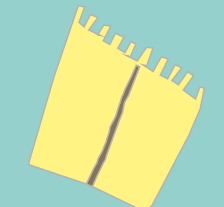


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TINDAYA

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION

The Natural Monument of Tindaya is situated in the north east of the island of Fuerteventura, in the municipality of La Oliva. It extends over 182.61 ha and its mountain has a height of 400.48 m above sea level.



PROTECTION REGULATIONS

This area was declared the Natural Site of National Interest Montaña de Tindaya by Spanish law 12/1987, of 19th June on Natural Areas in the Canaries, and reclassified to its current category of Natural Monument by the law no. 12/1994, of 19th December. This new 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 also considered an ecologically-sensitive area, for the purposes of law no. 11/1990, of 13th July, on Environmental Impact Prevention.

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



BIOSPHERE RESERVE

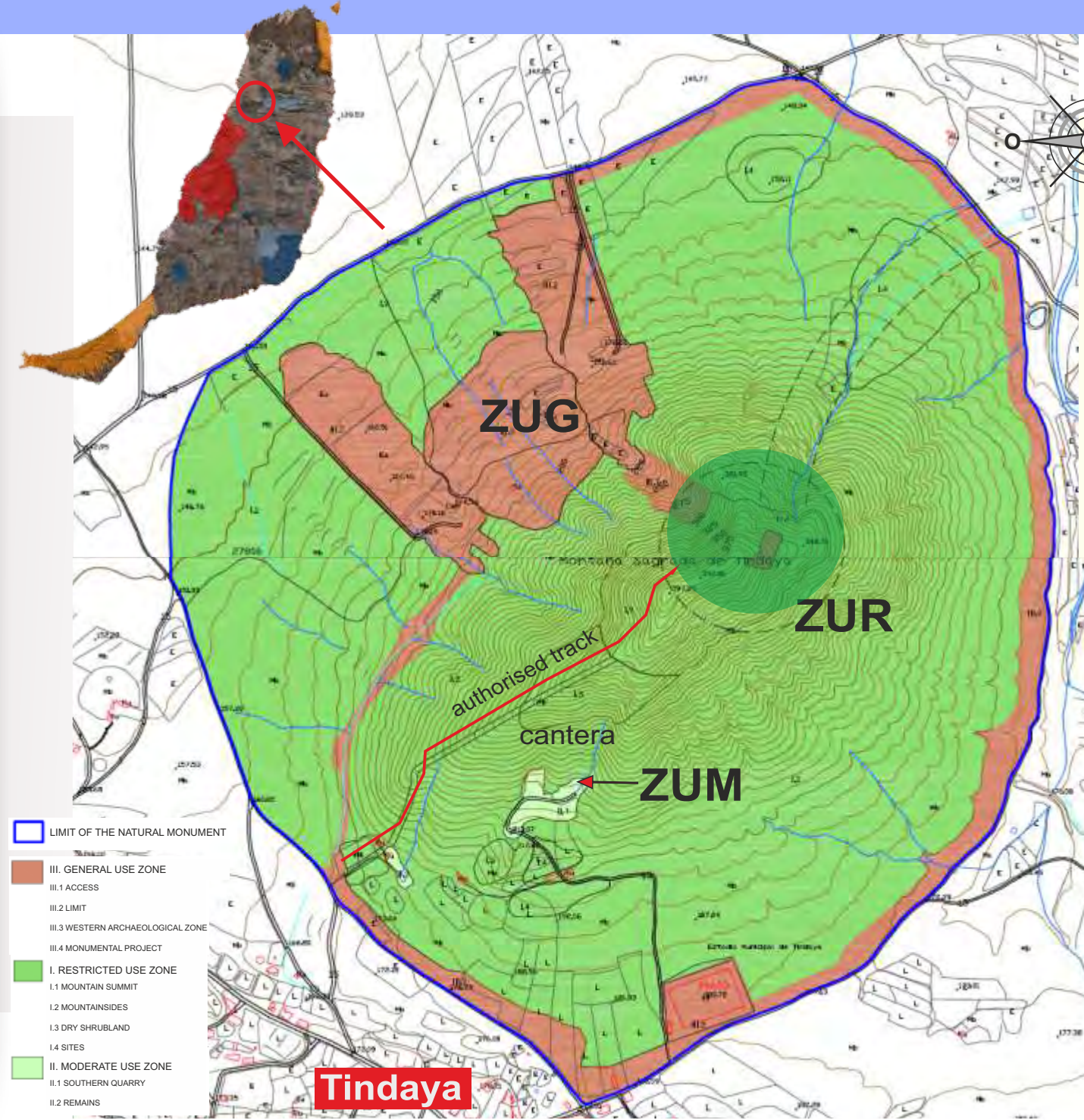
THE GROUNDS

The soil is very poor in this area; it generally forms a shallow layer and has very high levels of salt. The steep slopes favour erosion and the entrainment of the superficial layer of soil, which brings the base rock to the surface everywhere.

Lithosols are the types of soil found in the highest part of the mountain. They are quite rare on this island. In the lowest part, you will find aridisols, which are much more common on the rest of Fuerteventura.

NATURAL VALUES

- The mountain is formed by subvolcanic trachyte which is exposed nowadays due to the intense erosive processes undergone over time.
- Its location makes it visible from several places in the north of Fuerteventura and you will see that its peculiar shape, variety of colours and natural beauty make it unmistakable.
- Its geomorphological structure has great scientific, cultural and archaeological value.
- The aboriginal engravings (foot-shaped “podomorfos” and linear), whose size varies between 17 and 34 cm, are situated between 300 m and the summit of the mountain. Their meaning is yet unknown but it could be linked to religious practices or else to administrative justice.
- This natural monument is considered an area of cultural interest because of the existence of materials and archaeological sites on its slopes.
- Likewise, it is considered an area of geological interest for its volcanology, palaeontology, landscape and petrology interest. It is also the best example of salt water intrusion on Fuerteventura. This is why Montaña Tindaya is part of the geological heritage of Spain.



ASTRONOMICAL ALIGNMENT OF FOOTPRINT ENGRAVINGS AT MONTAÑA TINDAYA

“It has been ascertained that the footprint engravings made by the ancient Majos [name given to the aboriginal people of the island] at the summit of Montaña Tindaya (Fuerteventura) follow a specific alignment pattern which could have both an archeo-astronomical explanation (associated with the winter solstice and celestial phenomena alignment) and archaeotopographical one (orientation towards Teide and Gran Canaria).” (Perera et al. 1996, Belmonte et al. 2001, 1995.)



Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)



Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)



Common raven (*Corvus corax*)



Stone curlew (*Burhinus oedichnemus*)



BIRDS

At the peak, you can see birds of prey such as common kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*), common buzzards (*Buteo buteo insularum*), southern grey shrikes (*Lanius meridionalis koenigi*), and Canary Egyptian vultures (*Neophron percnopterus majorensis*), as well as passerine birds such as common ravens (*Corvus corax canariensis*).

On the hillsides, the most common species are: the Canary Island stonechat (*Saxicola dacotiae dacotiae*), an endemic species of the island, Berthelot's pipit (*Anthus berthelotii berthelotii*), the trumpeter finch (*Bucanetes githagineus amantum*) and the lesser short-toed lark (*Calandrella rufescens polatzeki*).

At the foot of the mountain, birds can be observed in the open, over cultivated zones. Here are some of the species that can be found there: the spectacled warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis*), the Spanish sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis spaniolensis*), the hoopoe (*Upupa epops epops*), the Eurasian linnet (*Acanthis cannabina harterti*), the rock pigeon (*Columba livia livia*) and the Eurasian collared-dove (*Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*).

MAMMALS

You may see Canary shrews (*Crocidura canariensis*), and the rest of the mammals encountered here have been brought to the island, such as goats (*Capra hircus*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and Barbary ground squirrels (*Atlantoxerus getulus*).

REPTILES

Atlantic lizards (*Gallotia atlantica mahoratae*), east Canary geckoes (*Tarentola angustimentalis*) and “lisnejas” (*Chalcides simonyi*) can be observed in this area.

FAUNA