

HIGHLIGHTS

A) The reservoir and the ravine de los Molinos: This is a zone where migratory birds stop to nest.

B) Mirador de la Degollada de la Villa: This place offers fantastic views onto villages, valleys and plains. On reaching the viewpoint, you will see two sculptures which represent the aboriginal kings Guise and Ayose.

C) Mirador del Morro Velosa: This viewpoint offers a magnificent panoramic view of the central-northern part of the island.

D) Monte Público Castillo de Lara: This public natural area has a recreational and leisure zone and was reforested in 1946 with Aleppo pines (*Pinus halepensis*), insignis pines (*Pinus radiata*), Canarian pines (*Pinus canariensis*), western coastal wattle (*acacia cyclops*), blue-leafed wattle (*acacia cyanophylla*), almond trees (*Prunus dulcis*) and Mediterranean cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*).

E) Aula de la Naturaleza de Parra Medina and Casa de los Padrones: These two buildings are used for environment education programmes and are available for use subject to prior authorisation.

F) Vega de Río Palmas: In this village you can see “gavias” (traditional irrigation systems), water mills and waterwheels..., a stronghold of traditional uses of the land. In the church, there is an effigy of the Virgen de la Peña, the patron saint of the island.

G) Valle de los Granadillos: Plutonic rocks (gabbro and syenite) and volcanic rocks (trachyte) have risen to the surface in this valley and there are also traditional agriculture structures.

H) Presa de las Peñitas: This reservoir was built between 1939 and 1943. Because of erosion, it has filled up with sediments, therefore water storage is limited. It is usual to see common coots (*Fulica atra*) and other migratory birds in this area.

I) Ajuy: This natural monument has a high geological and paleontological value; the oldest materials of the Canarian archipelago lie here.

J) El Jurado: Its natural rock arch is absolutely wonderful.

K) The church of Santa María, the convent of San Buenaventura and the chapel of San Diego de Alcalá.

L) Palmeral de Buen Paso: This is the last bastion of Canarian palm trees on Fuerteventura.

PERMITTED USES

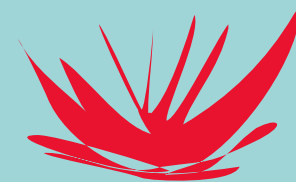
- Access on foot using the existing paths and trails.

FORBIDDEN USES

- Camping.
- Access to motorised vehicles except for management, safety or rescue reasons.
- Burning objects or litter
- Damaging or extracting elements of patrimonial, geological and/or biological value
- Leaving litter and/or debris on site.

USES REQUIRING AUTHORISATION:

- Gathering materials for scientific purposes.
- Climbing in places where this activity is permitted or authorised.
- Recreational, educational, didactical or sport activities.



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

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE VISIT

- Do not leave litter onsite.
- Wear comfortable and adequate shoes for walking.
- Walk on the marked paths.
- Respect the regulations and signs of this Rural Park.

FUERTEVENTURA

RURAL PARK BETANCURIA



CORE
ZONE



 928 53 36 02

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION

• The Rural Park of Betancuria is located in the central-western part of the island; it extends over 16,210.82 ha. It encompasses five municipalities: Antigua, Pájara, Puerto del Rosario, Tuineje and Betancuria and includes the Natural Monument of Ajuy (31.02 ha). It is the island's largest Protected Natural Zone.

PROTECTION REGULATIONS

• This area was declared the Natural Park of Betancuria by Spanish law no. 12/1987, of 19th June on Natural Areas in the Canaries, and reclassified to its current category as Rural Park by law no. 12/1994, of 19th December. This new 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.

• It was declared a Special Protection Area for Wild Birds by the Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds and a Special Area of Conservation by the European Union Decree 174/2009 (part of Montañas and Madre del Agua).

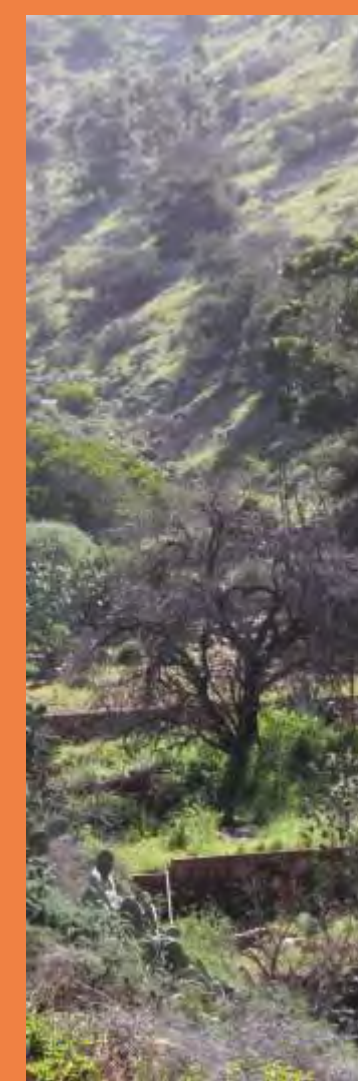
• The Natural Monument of Ajuy and general and restricted use zones are ecologically-sensitive areas within the park.

• There are also two areas of public land: “Castillo de Lara” and “Madre del Agua”

• The management of this rural park is regimented by the Master Use and Management Plan, published in the Canarian Official Gazette no. 093, of 18th May 2009.

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

BIOSPHERE RESERVE



Valle en Parra Medina

NATURAL VALUES

This rural park is characterised by the compatibility of traditional uses and natural values which provide a harmonious showcase for its visitors with a high eco-cultural and scientific value.

Almost the entire surface area of this park consists of outcrops of the island's basal complex which covers all the western side of the island.

FLORA

What is particular in this area is the presence of endemic "majorero" and Macaronesian species. Indeed, you will see species only found on Fuerteventura and the region of Macaronesia such as the Canary Island daisy (*Asteriscus sericeus*), "farroba" (*Aeonium balsamifero*), 'dog tooth' (*Caralluma burchardii* var. *burchardii*), thistle (*Carduus bourgaei*), verodes (*Kleinia neriifolia*), Canary palm trees (*Phoenix canariensis*), "tasaigo" (*Rubia fruticosa*), 'marine rosemary' (*Campylanthus salsoloides*) wild olive trees (*Olea europaea cerasiformis*), balsam spurges (*Euphorbia balsamifera*) and wild spurges (*Euphorbia regisjubae*).

There are also non-endemic species which are widely distributed throughout the park: tamarisks (*Tamarix africana* and *T. canariensis*), Atlantic pistachios (*Pistacia atlantica*), "incienso" (*Artemisia reptans*), European teatrees (*Lycium intricatum*) among others.



Canary Island daisy (*Asteriscus sericeus*)



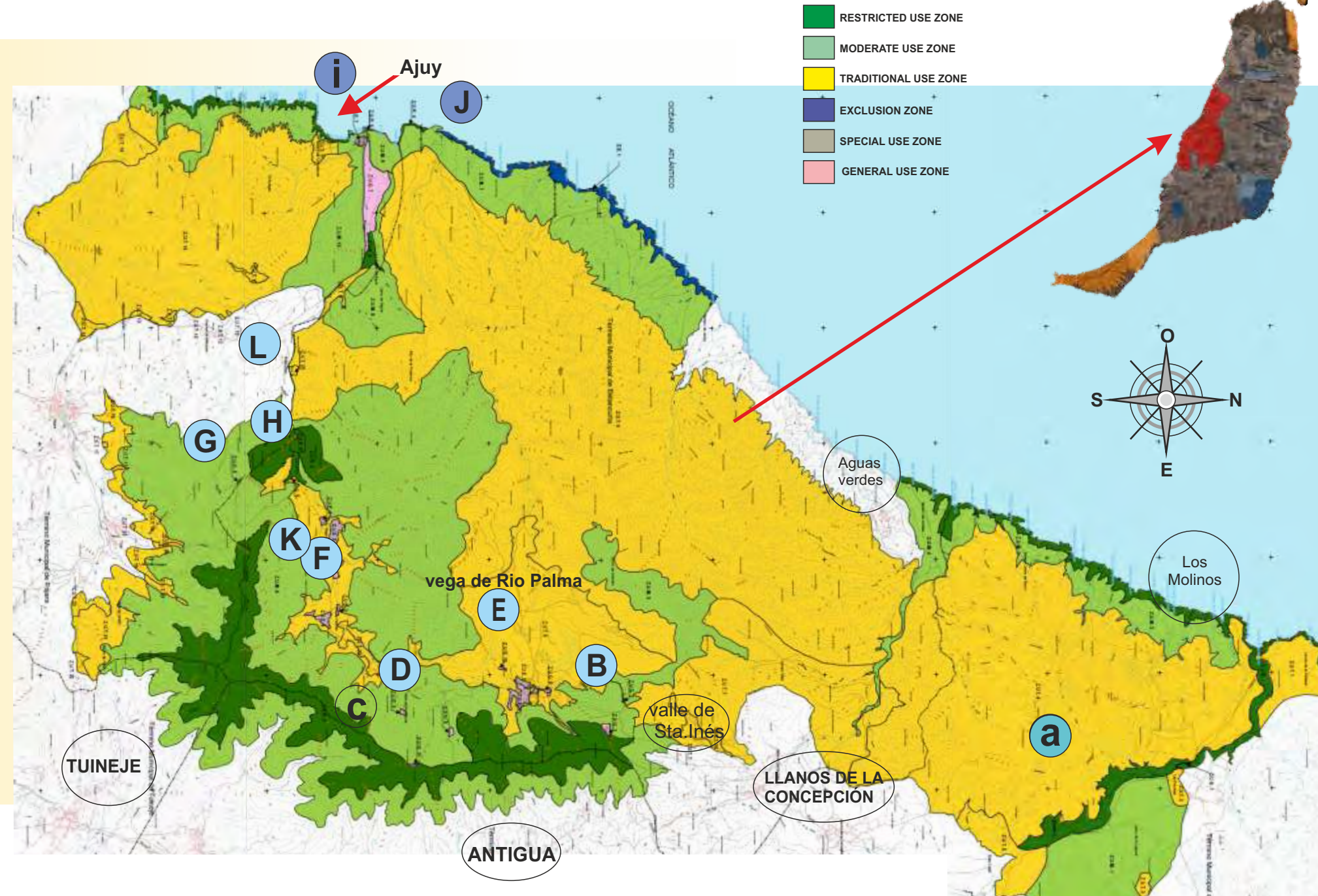
'white thorn' (*Asparagus pastorianus*)



Verode (*Kleinia neriifolia*)



'Dog tooth' (*Caralluma burchardii*)



FAUNA

It is common to see invertebrates such as Sahara bluetails (*Ischnura saharensis aguesse*) and a wingless grasshopper which is unique on this island (*Arminda fuerteventurae*).

The damp areas are habitat to European tree frogs (*Hyla meridionalis*). The three reptiles of Fuerteventura are all present in this park: the Atlantic lizard (*Gallotia atlantica mahoratae*), the East Canary gecko (*Tarentola angustimentalis*) and the "lisneja" (*Chalcides Simonyi*). This last species figures as vulnerable in the list of endangered species.

This rural park is also a shelter for nesting birds such as the Canary Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus majorensis*), common buzzards (*Buteo buteo insularum*), two types of owls, the (Tyto alba *gracilirostris*), and the Northern Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*), Canary stonechats (*Saxicola dacotiae*), the Fuerteventura blue tits (*Parus caeruleus degener*).

You will also find migratory birds here. Common coots (*Fulica atra*), marbled ducks (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), and Ruddy shelducks (*Tadorna ferruginea*), which have been nesting on Fuerteventura since 1994.



Canary Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus majorensis*)



Barbary falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*)

Cream-coloured courser (*Cursorius cursor*)



Canarian houbara (*Chlamydotis undulata fuertaventurae*)



Wingless grasshopper (*Arminda fuerteventurae*)



Abubilla (*Upupa epops*)



European tree frog (*Hyla meridionalis*)