

## INTRODUCTION

National Parks are natural areas that have been declared of national interest because they represent some of Spain's main natural ecosystems. The Caldera de Taburiente represents the Canary-Island-pine (*Pinus canariensis*) ecosystem in an area of spectacular scenery with beautiful waterfalls and abundant archaeological remains, especially rock engravings (petroglyphs).

## GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The Caldera de Taburiente is a ring of summits 8 km in diameter, with drops of up to 2000 m, e.g. from Roque de los Muchachos (2426 m), the highest point, down to Dos Aguas, at the Park exit, in Las Angustias ravine.



Pillow lava.

The National Park is of volcanic origin, and was formed during several periods of eruption. Interesting geological formations in the Park include: pillow lava (of submarine origin), dykes (vertical walls formed by lava which once flowed inside crevices), lava flows, volcanic cones and pyroclastic mantles (of striking colours). Finally, the roques (chimney rocks or isolated crags), products of erosion or avalanches, stand out.

At lower elevation, springs rich in iron salts stain the riverbeds yellow.

## FLORA AND FAUNA

The plant kingdom is dominated by the Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*), which is able to withstand the heat of flames without perishing, thanks to its thick bark. Together with Canary cistus (*Cistus symphytifolius*) and bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus hillebrandii*), it forms the most characteristic plant association.



*Echium wildpretii* ssp. *Trichosiphon*.

On the vertical walls of the Park, we are struck by the communities of rosette-shaped plants with succulent leaves known as *bejeques* (houseleeks).

The summits of the Caldera are covered by a shrub known as Teide sticky broom, accompanied to a lesser degree by other plants, many of them endangered species, such as *Genista benehoavensis* broom, Teide burnet, La Palma violet, blue viper's bugloss and pink Teide bugloss.

In the ravines, we often see small thickets of Canary willow and remains of laurel forest (Canary Island wax-myrtle, tree heath, Canary Island ebony and Canary Island guelder rose).

Vertebrates are scarce in the Park. Birds include chough, ravens and kestrels. More difficult to spot are the white-tailed laurel pigeon, buzzard, sparrowhawk and nocturnal long-eared owl. Small birds are represented by the canary, Berthelot's pipit, chaffinch, blue tit, blackbird, blackcap, robin, grey wagtail, chiff-chaff, goldcrest and, in the summer, the plain swift.

On the mammals found in the Park, the only endemic ones are three species of bats. The rest have been introduced by man. Reptiles are represented by the Canary Island lizard, with its striking blue patches, and the wall gecko, able to climb smooth vertical surfaces.



Canary Island lizard.

Invertebrates have been little studied in the Park, but many are thought to be endemic to the island, or even to the Park itself.

## VISITS

The caldera can most comfortably be accessed from Roque de los Muchachos; authorized vehicles; authorized persons; have time and you like walking.



There are also three information points: Cumbrecita, Lomo de los Muchachos.

## ZONES

There are reserved zones in the Park, where access is not permitted, except for scientific research. Access to the trails included in the list of reserved zones is not permitted. "no trespassing" signs on reserved zones.

PARQUE NACIONAL  
TABURIENTE  
CALDERA DE

Gobierno  
de Canarias



Cover photo by Oscar Rodríguez Gómez

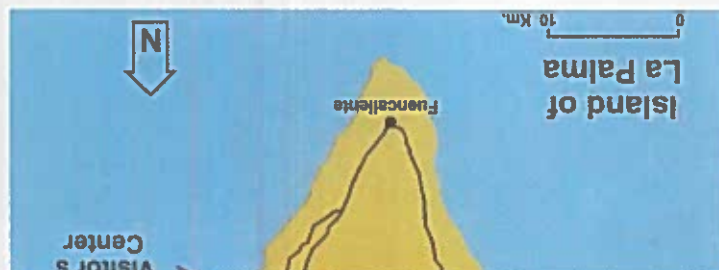
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CALDERA DE  
TABURIENTE  
PARQUE NACIONAL  
Gobierno  
de Canarias  
Cover photo:  
Taburiente stream among pines and willows, under  
Roque del Huso.

NIPPO: 311-99-013-9

Impreso por La Tebete

- PROHIBITIONS**
- No hunting
  - Do not disturb animals and plants
  - Do not litter
  - Do not leave the trail
  - No fires
  - No loud noises
  - No pets
  - Do not discard toxic substances

## USEFUL ADDRESSES



and unstable terrain from time to time. It is important to ask for directions, especially the trail starting out, especially the trail. Avoid entering through the rocks and there are rockfalls. Save the trail, as you could get vegetation catches fire very easily. conservation or the Park and for