
Pájara
FUERTEVENTURA
NATURAL AND WILDER



Pájara

FUERTEVENTURA

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WELCOME TO FUERTEVENTURA NATURAL AND WILD... WELCOME TO PÁJARA



INFORM, RAISE AWARENESS... PRESERVE

Educate, educate and educate. Consolidating a sustainable development model means that, before any other action, we need to inform and raise awareness amongst our inhabitants and visitors of the values of our natural heritage and our protected areas. Only in this way will we ensure our enjoyment and rational use of these spaces.

The importance of our natural heritage is incalculable, unknown in many cases, and transversal. Conserving our rich environmental heritage cannot be achieved without the help of livestock breeders, fishermen, farmers and ordinary citizens, in balance and harmony with nature. It is important to know where we come from to secure our future, hence the importance of raising awareness of their value to consolidate them as the drivers of our economy.

Pájara is wonderful because of its people, its traditions, and its landscapes, in a natural setting that, now more than ever, merits our gratitude for what it has given us over the years.

María de Los Ángeles Acosta Pérez

COUNCILLOR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION
PÁJARA CITY COUNCIL



CONNECT WITH THE MAGIC OF OUR NATURAL WORLD

As mayor, I am pleased to present this guide, produced by the City Council's Environmental Department, which highlights Pájara's natural attractions, available to both the residents in the municipality and the tourists who visit us; a well-aimed publication that underscores and upholds Pájara's outstanding position as a tourist destination in Europe, with the emphasis on its excellent climate, stunning beaches and unique landscapes.

Our aim is to promote these areas by ensuring adequate access while maintaining their appeal, with an institutional focus on conservation and information.

All of our actions at the City Council seek to provide activities for the local population and visitors to enjoy, promoting cultural and sporting events, commercial revitalization, and gastronomic experiences. Local hospitality, combined with beautiful landscapes ideal for walking through, ensure unique moments. The guide invites everyone, residents and tourists alike, to explore and experience all the wonderful things that Pájara has to offer. Enjoy!

Alejandro Jesús Jorge Moreno

MAYOR
PÁJARA CITY COUNCIL


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



CONTENTS

09 BIOSPHERE RESERVE.
11 A GENUINE ISLAND WITHIN AN ISLAND.
14 NATURAL PARK OF JANDÍA.
19 AJUY NATURAL MONUMENT.
23 SITE OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, PLAYA DEL MATORRAL.
26 MT. CARDÓN NATURAL MONUMENT.
31 BETANCURIA RURAL PARK.
35 BEACHES WHERE NATURE REIGNS SUPREME.
39 NATURAL FANCIES.
41 NATURAL CHALLENGES. PATHS AND TRACKS.
53 FLORA.
57 OUR SEA.
65 AIR.
68 SKY.
71 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE.
77 A VOCATION TO TEACH.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA

AN EXTRAORDINARY SPACE, RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH A BIOSPHERE RESERVE DECLARATION.
WE ARE FUERTEVENTURA, “NATURE AND PEOPLE”.



Terrestrial Area

- Transition Area
- Core Area
- Buffer Zone

Marine Area

- Marine Buffer Zone
- Marine Transition Area
- Marine Core Area

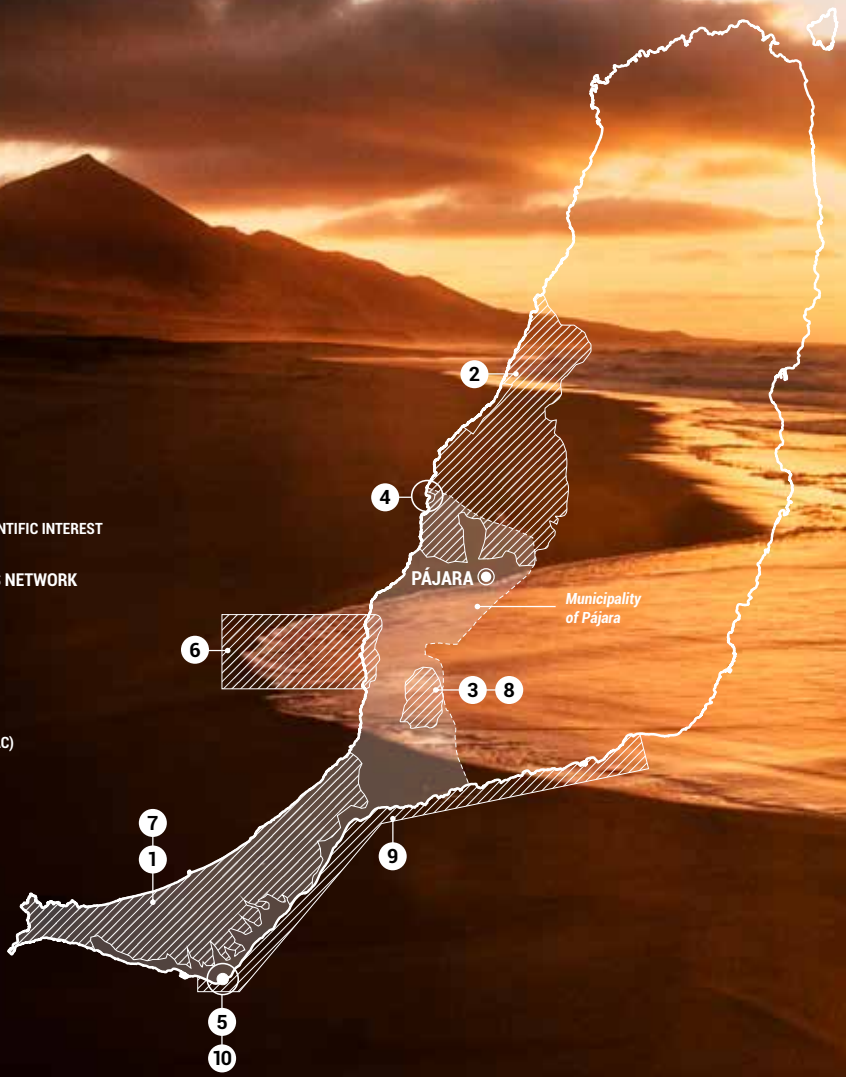
PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA

NETWORK OF NATURAL AREAS

1. JANDÍA NATURAL PARK
2. BETANCURIA RURAL PARK
3. MT. CARDÓN NATURAL MONUMENT
4. AJUY NATURAL MONUMENT
5. PLAYA DEL MATORRAL A SITE OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

NATURA 2000 PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK

6. CUEVA DE LOBOS. (SCI) (SAC)
7. JANDIA. (SCI) (SAC) (SPA)
8. MT. CARDON. (SCI) (SAC)
9. LEEWARD BEACHES JANDÍA. (SCI) (SAC)
10. MATORRAL BEACH. (SCI) (SAC)



A GENUINE ISLAND WITHIN AN ISLAND

AN INTERNATIONAL WETLAND UNIQUE IN THE CANARY ISLANDS AND A MOSAIC OF NATURAL AREAS DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF VARIED AND UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS, PÁJARA HAS AN AMAZING NATURAL AND GEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT, FROM THE RICH WATERS THAT LAP ITS COASTS AND BEACHES, HOME TO WHALES, DOLPHINS AND TURTLES, TO ITS SKY, FREE OF LIGHT POLLUTION, WHERE THE STARS WELCOME US IN ALL THEIR BRILLIANT SPLENDOR.

Pájara is a land of contrasts, of arid plains home to golden sand dunes, and ravines and fertile plains cultivated with care and hard work, interspersed with oases of primitive palm trees endemic to the Canary Islands. This is the largest municipality in the islands, and one of the most biodiverse. A space teeming with life, in the middle of nowhere. A destination of friendlypeople and impossible landscapes.

PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA

A NATURAL PARK, A RURAL PARK, TWO NATURAL MONUMENTS AND A SITE OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, IN ADDITION TO FIVE SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION AND TWO SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS FOR BIRDS PROTECT MORE THAN 60% OF PÁJARA'S SURFACE AREA

To the north is the basal complex shared with the rest of the island, while to the south is the unique Jandía Peninsula, always stunning with its different ecosystems hidden behind its dunes of organic sand, known as *jable*. A territory covering 200 km² that long ago was a separate island, until a sand deposit made it the Peninsula we know today.

Our great variety of landscapes leaves travellers speechless, from the sand dunes of the La Pared isthmusand the Pecenescal valley to the Playa de Sotavento (Leeward Beach), which actually consists of several beaches, each with its particular charms, among the most famous in the world. Our 150 km of coastline boast no less than 70 linear km of beaches, making Pájara the largest coastal municipality in Spain.

A natural treasure joined by the moody world of the marshes on Playa del Matorral; the Ajuy Natural Monument, the oldest part of the archipelago, according to geologists; and the most spectacular panoramic views of the Canaries from the Arco de Cofete.

This is a quintessential biosphere area, with its exceptional flora and fauna, including numerous endemic species.





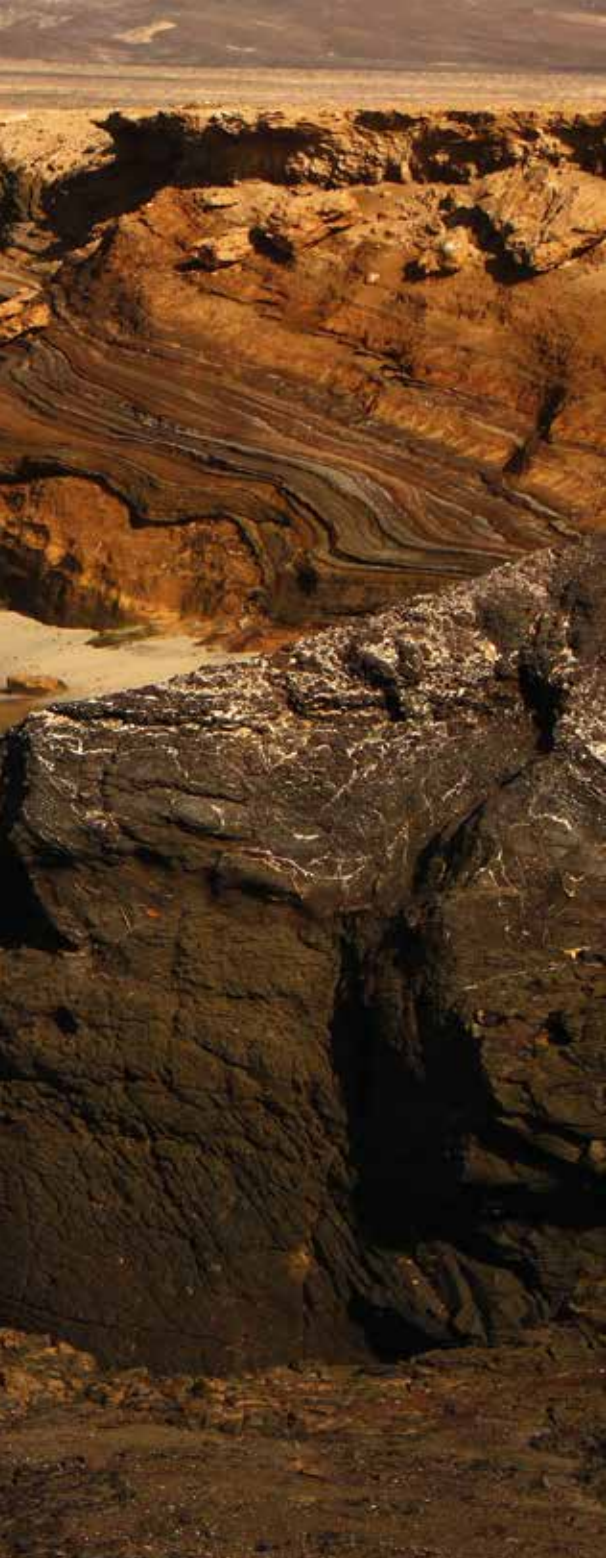


JANDÍA NATURAL PARK

A LANDSCAPE OF SPLENDID CONTRASTS BETWEEN BEACHES AND MOUNTAINS, BETWEEN THE LA PARED ISTHMUS AND THE GREAT MOUNTAINOUS ARCH ON THE MAJESTIC PEAK OF LA ZARZA, THE HIGHEST ON FUERTEVENTURA, TOWERING 807 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL.







Playa de Ojos, pristine and wild at Punta de Jandía. Small, quiet and unknown, perfect for enjoying unspoilt nature.

MAGNIFICENT AND AWE-INSPIRING, AN ALMOST UNTOUCHED LANDSCAPE

144 of the 200 m² of the Jandía Peninsula are part of the Jandía Natural Park.

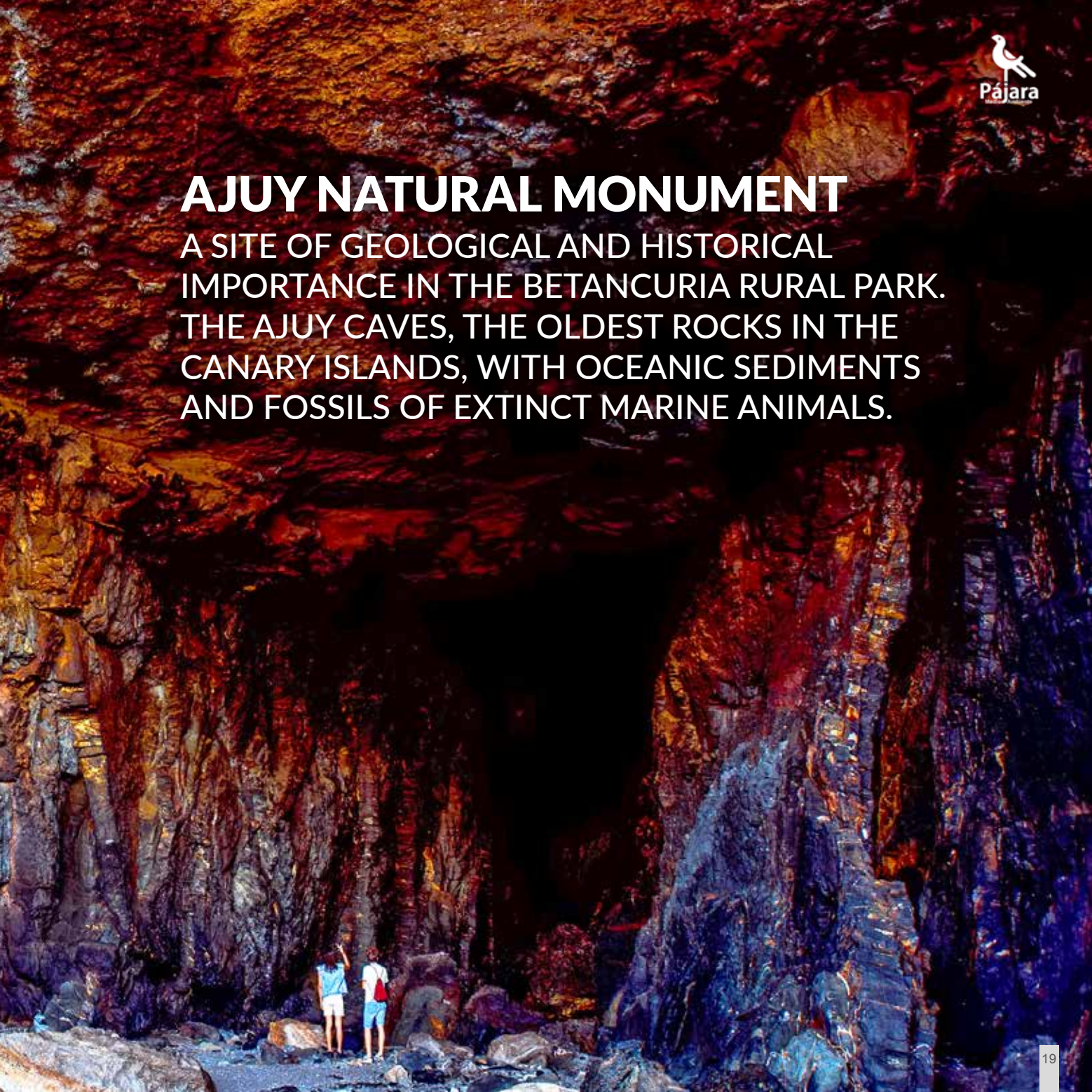
A desert area of extreme beauty, an authentic environmental and natural reserve of the Canary Archipelago. The unique and striking dune landscapes of the La Pared isthmus give way, from the Valle de Pecenescal to a majestic mountain arch crowned by the Pico de la Zarza , also called Jandía, the highest point in Fuerteventura, towering 807 meters above sea level, above the Pico de Mocan and the Pico de La Palma. An unparalleled summit whose southern slope is marked by knolls, crests and valleys.

A unique environment everywhere you look, the habitat for most of Fuerteventura's most representative vegetation.

OUR RECOMMENDATION

Visit the Mirador Degollada Agua Oveja and enjoy one of the most iconic views of Fuerteventura, Playa de Cofete; go to the Caleta de la Madera and enjoy the magnificent panoramic view of the Jandía Peninsula; discover Playa de Ojos, the village of Puertito de la Cruz...


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



AJUY NATURAL MONUMENT

A SITE OF GEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE IN THE BETANCURIA RURAL PARK. THE AJUY CAVES, THE OLDEST ROCKS IN THE CANARY ISLANDS, WITH OCEANIC SEDIMENTS AND FOSSILS OF EXTINCT MARINE ANIMALS.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



150 MILLION YEARS...
RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES

The Canary Islands' oldest rock formations are found in the Ajuy Caves.

Fascinating at first sight, and no wonder. We are brought face to face with sedimentary strata formed in the depths of the ocean between 100 and 150 million years ago, during the Cretaceous period. Studies suggest that Fuerteventura was formed some 30 million years ago, a particularly intriguing fact which raises fascinating geological enigmas.

Exploring the caves of this Natural Monument makes for unique experiences among rocks that have withstood the passage of millennia, when the Atlantic covered the island with its waters, offering us a unique window into the archipelago's geological history.

OUR RECOMMENDATION

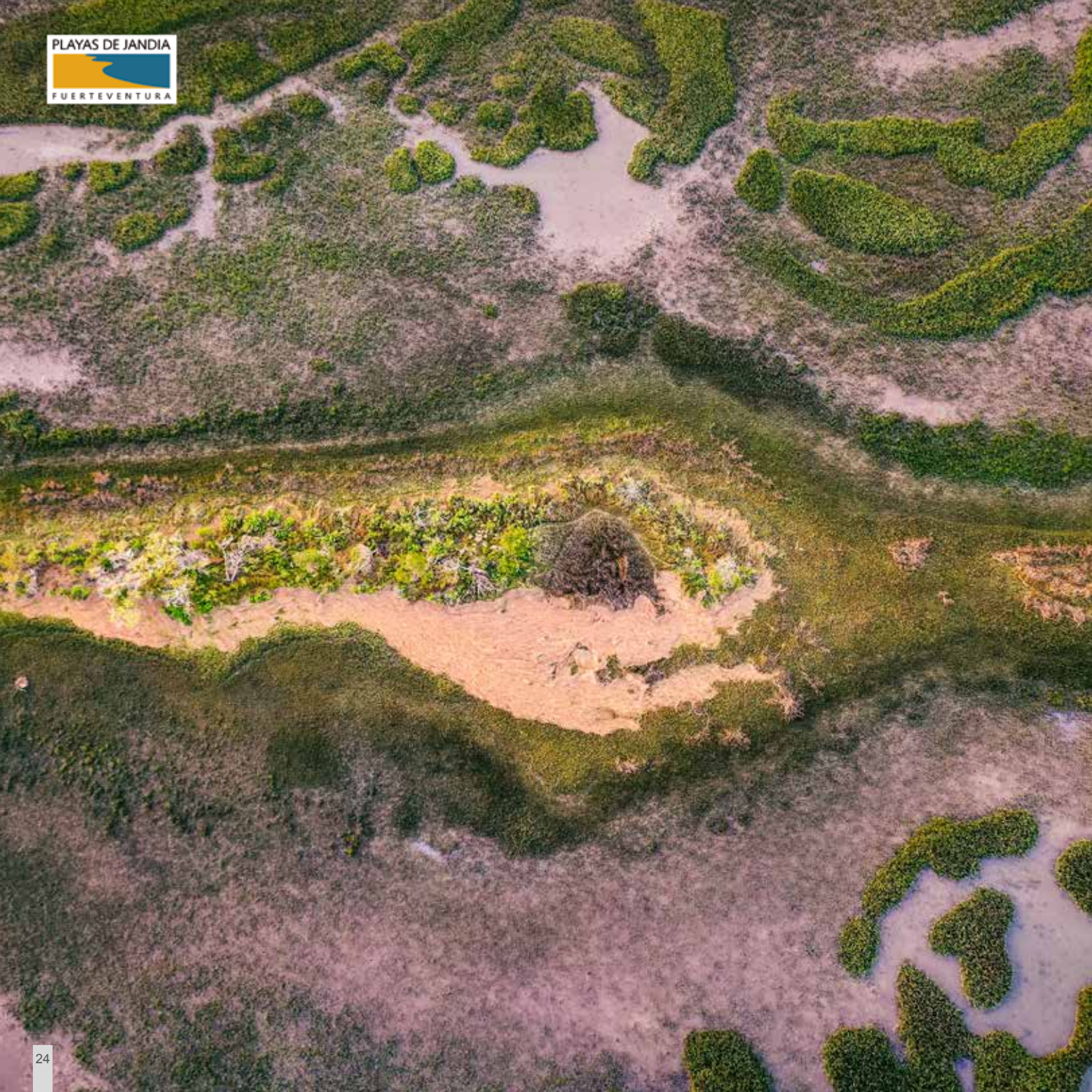
Experience the sensations of walking along the fossilized dune that leads to the Caves, and marvel at the remains of the quay, quarry and lime kilns once used by local people.
A historical connection intertwines with the natural beauty of the lush Madre del Agua Canarian palm grove that you can enjoy in the same ravine that the conquistadors travelled through more than 600 years ago.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



SITE OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST PLAYA DEL MATORRAL

A HEAVENLY STRETCH OF MORE THAN 115 HECTARES OF COASTLINE WITH A DUNE SYSTEM AND WHITE-SAND BEACH. A LIVING DEMONSTRATION OF THE VITALITY THAT CHARACTERIZES THE BIODIVERSITY OF OUR COASTS AND A GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING IT IN AREAS WHERE TOURISM CAN HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
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ONE OF MACARONESIA'S MOST IMPORTANT WETLANDS

Popularly known as Saladar de Jandía, this site of great scientific interest is notable for its wealth of flora and for being a landfall area for breeding and migratory seabirds.

It is the only wetland in the Canary Islands included in the Ramsar Convention (agreement for the conservation of wetlands of international importance) and recognized as an Environmentally Sensitive Area in its entirety.

A delta-like site at the singular mouth of the Barranco de Vinamar, which coexists with and provides environmental quality to the tourist activity around it.

A unique wetland, periodically flooded by the sea, notable for its potential as an area of landfall for seabirds and waders, as well as turtles, cetacean sightings, and for the beauty of its underwater environment.

DID YOU KNOW...

At the back of this area, about 300 meters from the coastline, you can see a fossil beach from the Last Glacial Maximum (colloquially known as the last ice age, about 125,000 years ago), containing species characteristic of a tropical environment, such as the gastropod *Tethystrombus latus*, an indicator species in this type of deposits.



MOUNT CARDÓN NATURAL MONUMENT

FORMING PART OF FUERTEVENTURA'S "CENTRAL EDIFICE", SOME OF ITS ROCKS ARE MORE THAN 22 YEARS OLD, WITH A DIVERSITY OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL ELEMENTS THROUGHOUT. A UNIQUE, HIGH-ALTITUDE EXPERIENCE, WITH RICH ENDEMIC FLORA AND FAUNA, AND IMPORTANT ETHNOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, LIKE THE "YACIMIENTO DE LAS HERMOSAS".



There are many archaeological sites in the Mount Cardón area. Native constructions, many of them pastoral, vestiges of the island's ancient inhabitants.

SERRATED SUMMITS, PILGRIMS, AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS

If from a distance its beauty is impressive, once you reach the summit the views are beyond words: spectacular rock formations, sweeping panoramic vistas of the area of Jandía, of Cofete, and splendid views of Las Hermosas site, a great unknown in Fuerteventura despite being part of its historical development. It contains traces of an ancient settlement of *los majos*, the islands' first settlers. From the summit, everything is striking, including traces of the volcanic vents from which lava flows and pyroclastic material were erupted.

Formed by the remains of an ancient volcanic edifice, the Mount. Cardón Natural Monument offers one of the most spectacular landscapes on the island, a massif sculpted over several million years. A majestic landscape with a serrated ridge, embellished with reddish tones and *jorjado*, the endemic plant that grows on its slopes.

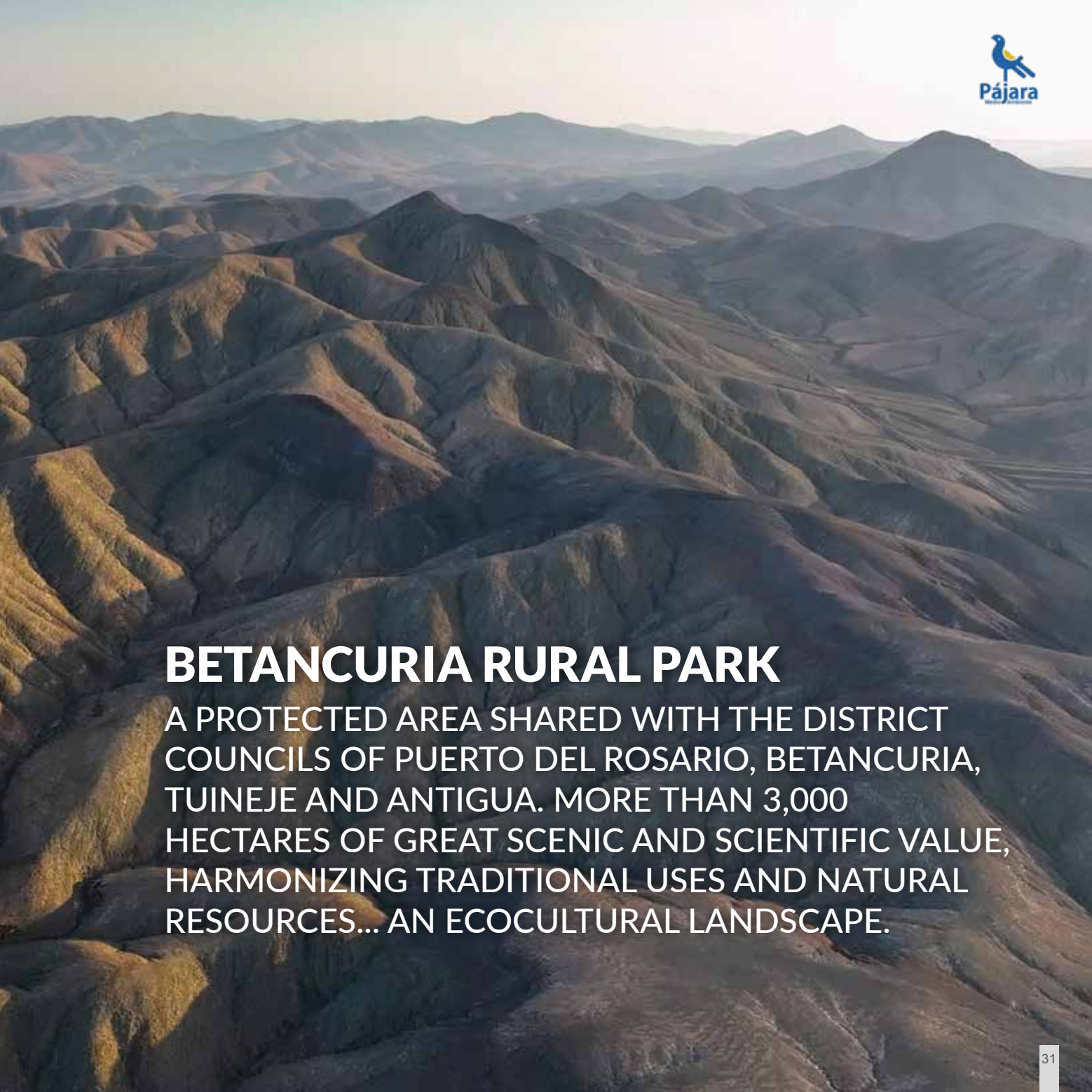
DID YOU KNOW...

On the eastern slope of the mountain is the hermitage known as the Ermita del Tanquito, where every year there is an eponymous pilgrimage from the village of El Cardón.




Pájara


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



BETANCURIA RURAL PARK

A PROTECTED AREA SHARED WITH THE DISTRICT COUNCILS OF PUERTO DEL ROSARIO, BETANCURIA, TUINEJE AND ANTIGUA. MORE THAN 3,000 HECTARES OF GREAT SCENIC AND SCIENTIFIC VALUE, HARMONIZING TRADITIONAL USES AND NATURAL RESOURCES... AN ECOCULTURAL LANDSCAPE.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



FUERTEVENTURA'S LARGEST NATURAL AREA

A dry semi-desert full of ravines and mountainous escarpments of copperish tones and matchless ethnographic elements bound to fascinate. Geomorphologically, it constitutes one of the most spectacular outcroppings of the Insular Basal Complex. It is arid, but also includes refreshing surprises like the Madre del Agua oasis, in the ravine leading to the village of Ajuy.

The Betancuria Rural Park is magical, to be enjoyed with all five senses, the Canarian "Yosemite" as some have called it. This fabulous area offers unique experiences, and dreamy views, up at the Mirador de Las Peñitas on the boundary with neighbouring Betancuria, from which we can see the ravine and Las Peñitas dam, the Valle de los Granadillos on the left, and even the northern Pico de la Muda, 538 meters high.

MILLIONS OF YEARS OF EROSION

Over millions of years, a constant process of erosion has sculpted the Betancuria Rural Park. Its mountains revealing the depths of an ancient volcanic edifice some 20 million years old. Basalts and volcanic trachytes, gabbros and plutonic syenites... reveal its fascinating geological history, creating a landscape that fuses an imposing volcanic presence with a delicacy sculpted by time.





BEACHES WHERE NATURE REIGNS SUPREME

IDYLLIC, WITH FINE SAND AND CRYSTAL-CLEAR TURQUOISE WATERS. AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE, SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION, AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS FOR BIRDS. THE MOST RENOWNED ARE PLAYA DE SOTAVENTO IN JANDÍA, (ACTUALLY FIVE BEACHES IN ONE) AND THE PLAYA DEL MATORRAL RESPECTIVELY.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



MORE THAN 70 KILOMETRES... AWESOME

Our coastline leaves no one indifferent. The environmental conditions of our sandy areas, more than 70 km's worth, make our beaches among the best in Europe.

Beaches with turquoise waters, and most of them with fine golden sand, but also, surprisingly, with black sand and pebbles where the tides are stronger, mainly on the windward coasts.

Cofete, La Solapa, Garcey and Viejo Rey, among others, contrast, in their waves and colours, with the unique and ever-changing tides at the Playa de Sotavento, which actually consists of five beaches: La Barca, Risco del Paso, El Salmo, Los Canarios and Mal Nombre; and those of Costa Calma, Butihondo and Morro Jable.

Alluring beaches, four of them awarded Blue Flags, in recognition of the excellence of the coastline and its waters, putting Pájara in top spot in Fuerteventura.

PROTECTED BY THE NATURA 2000 NETWORK

The landscapes of our best beaches, widely recognized in Europe, are protected within the Natura 2000 Network due to their importance in terms of their biodiversity. The network is composed of Sites of Community Importance (SCI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) for Birds.





NATURAL FANCIES

“CROCODILE ROCK”, THE “COBRA”... GEOLOGICAL POINTERS BETWEEN VIRGIN BEACHES AND UNIQUE LANDSCAPES.

Nature also has its flights of fancy in Pájara. Perhaps the most striking is the “Crocodile Rock”, a fragile enclave between the beaches of Los Chiguiguos and Ugán, in a hard-to-access area between the towns of La Pared and Pájara.

The “Crocodile Rock” is ancient land, perhaps formed from the remains of fossil dunes, a rock formation sculpted by the wind reflecting the different geological processes that took place on the island thousands of years ago. It is important from a geological, geomorphological, paleontological and landscape point of view because of its shape.

The “Crocodile” is joined a little further on by the “Cobra”, another ochre-coloured limestone rock also masterfully sculpted by the air and the waves of the Atlantic.

Natural monuments, living testaments to the constant dance between land and sea. Seductive beauty, Instagram stars, stunning scenery that is also scattered across the leeward side. Unparalleled experiences and attractions.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA
5 Stage 5: Betancuria - Pájara
6 Stage 6: Pájara - La Pared
7 Stage 7: La Pared - Casas del Risco del Paso
8 Stage 8: Casas del Risco del Paso - Morro Jable
9 Stage 9: Morro Jable - Punta de Jandía
J SL FV 53: Mt. Cardón - El Tanquito
K PR FV 54: Morro Jable - Pico La Zarza
L PR FV 55: Gran Valle - Degollada del Cofete - Cofete
M PR FV 56: El Puertito - Caleta de La Madera - El Puertito
The islet of Los Lobos
Corralejo
La Oliva
Tindaya
Betancuria
PÁJARA
Municipality of Pájara
Morro Jable



Topoguide.
Plans and recommendations.

NATURAL CHALLENGE

THRILLING TRAILS SHOWCASING THE BIODIVERSITY AND BEAUTY OF OUR PRECIOUS NATURAL HERITAGE.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



GR-131

THE BEST GUIDE TO OUR NATURAL SPACES

STAGE 5
Betancuria - Pájara
(16,7 KM) COLOUR AND REMARKABLE STRUCTURE.

STAGE 6
Pájara - La Pared
(24,7 KM) ON THE BORDER BETWEEN TWO KINGDOMS.

STEP 7
La Pared - Casas del Risco del Paso
(18 KM) THROUGH THE JANDIA PENINSULA.

STEP 8
Casas del Risco del Paso - Morro Jable
(15,5 KM) TO THE WETLAND AND PLAYA DEL MATORRAL.

STEP 9
Morro Jable - Punta de Jandía
(20 KM) TO THE SOUTHERNMOST LIGHTHOUSE.

The GR-131 Trail that traverses Fuerteventura from north to south crosses the municipality of Pájara, in five of its nine stages. Doing these stages means you can enjoy the ever-evocative protected natural areas through which it runs.

A SUCCESSION OF UNIQUE LANDSCAPES

The Long-Distance Trail that leads into Pájara through the Betancuria Rural Park, to which we belong, is the most extensive natural area on the island. With its landscape of U-shaped ravines, it continues along the emblematic Mt. Cardón Natural Monument, finishing at the southern end, where we come to the Jandía Natural Park, which safeguards and showcases all the habitats that can be found on Fuerteventura: the *sabulícola* (beaches and sands), salt marshes, stony plains, ravines, stream beds and peaks.

Surprising and full of possibilities. Those are the five stages that make up and end the GR-131, a Nature Trail greeted by Toto and the Teguerey Valley, between ravines and the endemic *tabaibales*, always accompanied by buzzards, kestrels, stonechats, warblers... This is an area of irrigated agriculture, of tomatoes, potatoes and corn, and exquisite dried figs.

Customs are strong on this part of the Trail, in Pájara, where there are many examples of traditional and religious architecture, as well as livestock traditions, such as the island's *apañadas*, stone enclosures for livestock. There is an amazing portico on the church dedicated to Nuestra Señora de Regla (Our Lady of Regla), evocative for its New World touches. And so on and so forth, like a never-ending showcase, after all, we are in one of the most popular districts for tourism in Spain.

After a well-deserved rest, there are new slopes to tackle between hills to reach the emblematic Mount Cardón Natural Monument, whose formations feature colours ranging from lilac to greener tones. Its steep slopes provide locals and strangers with not only a beautiful landscape, but also a natural challenge.





The Madre del Agua Palm Grove in Barranco de Ajuy, one of the premier natural sites in the municipality of Pájara and Fuerteventura. Undoubtedly, one of the island's most important areas for flora and birds.



FROM WINDWARD TO LEEWARD

The reward for all the effort brings us to La Pared, the ancient wall that divided the island, separating the *dehesa*, the old pasturelands, from the rest. We are in the Jandía Natural Park, where Maxorata's highest peak is located. The cardon de Jandía, an endemic plant and a natural symbol of Fuerteventura grows here, and the breathtaking scenery makes rest impossible.

From this matchless setting we start off again along the Camino de los Presos to the Valle de Pescenescal, which opens onto the eastern coast, the leeward side, famous for its beaches. Hawks, bustards, black-bellied sandgrouse ... appear as you walk through this terrain which, though desert-like, does not fail to dazzle.

At this point, the route runs along the coast to Playa del Matorral, a Site of Scientific Interest and a genuine quirk of nature.

In Morro Jable our path leads us, from the entrance of the Port, towards the mouth of the Gran Valle to an old path that takes us to Cofete, a valley at the head of which are pastoral structures related to the island's native culture

The always mysterious Casa de los Winter marks our arrival in Cofete, with its amazing beaches and islet, from where we can get to the Punta de Jandía, the northernmost point of the island, crossing the Degollada de Agua Ovejas lookout.

This is the reward for a journey that requires effort, full of contrasts, and always bursting with life, surprising in every nook and cranny. Living land, sea and air.




PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



Pico de la Zarza.

LOCAL PATHS AND SHORT TRAILS, ROUTES FOR TAKING IN THE SCENERY, AWAKENING INTEREST IN THE AREA'S FLORA AND FAUNA

In one direction or the other, with detours that bring us to points of interest. All of them in the natural environment, most of them traditional... Routes revealing specific settings.

SL FV 53
Montaña Cardón - El Tanquito
(3,9 KM) SPECTACULAR NATURAL MONUMENT.

PR FV 54
Morro Jable - Pico de la Zarza
(7,5 KM) THE HIGHEST POINT ON FUERTEVENTURA.

PR FV 55
Gran Valle - Degollada del Cofete - Cofete
(6,4 KM) SPECTACULAR AND OF GREAT NATURAL INTEREST.

PR FV 56
El Puertito - Caleta de La Madera - El Puertito
(11,4 KM) SERENE HARMONY, AESTHETIC TRANQUILITY.



Pájara At Your Fingertips

AT YOUR FEET, A UNIQUE PROPOSAL WITH ITINERARIES "AT YOUR FINGERTIPS": FROM THE WINDWARD SIDE TO THE LEEWARD SIDE

Long-distance trails, short distance, local tracks, and even short walks to enjoy with the family. Our Environmental Department has, in Pájara, the best communication network you could ever ask for: "At Your Fingertips."

Routes such as Toto-Pájara (3.02 km), Pájara-Ajuy (10.2 km), Ajuy-Madre del Agua (3.18 km), Sicasumbre-Cardón (5.05 km), Sicasumbre-El Tanquito (3.83 km), Cardón-La Pared (14.6 km), Cardón-La Lajita (13.5 km), La Pared-Costa Calma (9.13 km), Costa Calma-Pecenescal (10.4 km), Jandía-Pico de la Zarza (7.85 km), Mirador del Atlántico (10.1 km), Morro Jable-Cofete (10.4 km) and Cofete-Faro de Jandía (17.7 km), which reveal the municipality with the largest protected area in the Canary Islands, with more than 37,000 hectares of land for our extensive network of natural areas and areas in the Natura 2000 Network.

Informative trails featuring legendary landscapes and scattered with the greatest biodiversity of the world's deserts, sharing knowledge of our endemic species and a network of recognized natural monuments.



Punta de Jandía.



If you love flora, find out more with the Pájara Nature Guide Book published by our City Council, a work by Stephan Scholz and César-Javier Palacios.



RESILIENT PLANTS: SURVIVING THE DESERT

PÁJARA, ITS JANDÍA NATURAL PARK, IS HOME TO MANY ENDEMIC SPECIES. FLORA DIVERSITY BROADENS IN MT. CARDON AND IS ENRICHED IN THE SALT MARSH HABITAT.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



A BOTANICAL TREASURE

The Jandía Peninsula is unique in Fuerteventura. Up to four native euphorbias (spurges) grow in our territory: *cardón canario*, *cardón de Jandía*, *tabaiba dulce* and *tabaiba amarga*, endemic species that thrive and mark their territory, but are dispersed in very specific enclaves.

The show is on. From the coast to the high midlands, the sweet *tabaibales* paint the landscape, extending even to the head of the Gran Valle, where they defy altitudes over 500 meters. Meanwhile, the bitter *tabaibales* cling to the midland ravines on the leeward side.

Canary Island *cardonales* (cactus-like plants) abound in areas such as Cofete and the Vinamar and Butihondo ravines, on the opposite slope, while Jandía *cardonales* are only found in three valleys on the southwestern coast.

A gem of a plant, the most precious grow at the summits, among Peralillo de las Canarias (Gymnosporia Cryptopetala), *adernos*, (*Heberdenia excelsa*) *mocanes* (*Visnea mocanera*), ferns and mosses, including exclusive ones like the *Ortotrichum handiense*, which grows on the branches of the shrub *jorao* (*Asteriscus sericeus*) and other bushes.

NATURAL STRONGHOLDS

The *tarajal* (*Tamarix canariensis*) in the Barranco del Jurado, in Ajuy, the fig tree in Winter, the Madre del Agua palm grove, the wild olive tree of Huertas de Chilegua in El Cardón, and the bonsai wild olive tree of Pico Tejera in Morro Jable enhance the territory's tapestry of plants, unique trees and species that we work to preserve.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



OUR SEA

A SANCTUARY FOR UP TO 87 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF CETACEANS AND 6 SPECIES OF SEA TURTLES

THE RECORDS DO NOT LIE. WE ARE A GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT FOR CETACEANS AND SEA TURTLES, A SANCTUARY FOR SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, SPECIES CONSERVATION AND ENJOYMENT OF OUR COASTLINE AND SEAS.



MORRO JABLE: A HOME, NURSERY AND BREEDING GROUND FOR TURTLES

The success of the project carried out in 2009 to reintroduce the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) to our coasts, with more than 1,000 born and released on Playa de Cofete, was pivotal for implementing what is now known as the Turtle Nursery on the esplanade of the quay at Morro Jable.

There is a Sea Turtle Recovery and Conservation Centre where they are measured, weighed, marked and fed to control their development, which significantly increases the survival of the hatchlings and, consequently, the chances that some may return to our shores. This coastline welcomes and observes six of the seven species of sea turtles that exist in the world, from the loggerhead, as mentioned above, to the green, hawksbill, olive ridley, Kemp's ridley, and leatherback sea turtles, all of which are endangered.

Not surprisingly, our municipality has been a pioneer in raising awareness over care for the environment and the natural setting in which turtles live.

UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

Cofete Beach is, once again, a nesting site for loggerhead turtles. The recording of new specimens confirms the success of the efforts made to reintroduce and save this beautiful species.




PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



WHALES AND RORQUALS, BEAKED WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PILOT WHALES

The quality of the waters that lap at our coasts ensure sightings of up to 28 of the world's 87 types of cetaceans. Many of them are just passing through, although more and more colonies are choosing our seas, because they contain a wealth of the food they seek, making our coastline one of the most outstanding marine sanctuaries in the Canary Islands.

Pilot whales; common, rough-toothed and spotted dolphins; sperm whales, humpback whales, Bryde's whales, orcas... a natural aquarium from the windward side to the leeward side of the islands.

MARVELS FROM OTHER LATITUDES

In our intricate ocean theatres, the existence of different zones, seafloors and environmental conditions has generated an astonishing biological tapestry. Each species finds its place here, carving out a wealth of marine life in response to the complexities and uniqueness of their habitats. Our sheltered areas, rocky and sandy bottoms, shallows and great depths, local currents, variable water temperatures and other factors mean that we have species that thrive in cold North Atlantic waters (Palearctic influence), temperate water species (tropical influence), and even animals that live on the eastern coasts of the Americas, especially in areas of the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

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VERIL DE JANDÍA, AMONG FUERTEVENTURA'S HOTTEST BIODIVERSITY SPOTS

The biological diversity of its seabed is top class. White sea-breamream, barracudas, scrawled filefish, Large-eye dentex, trumpetfish, mousefish, rays, moray eels, cardinal fish conger eels... a whole multi-coloured symphony of the most varied kinds of creatures, though in terms of robustness, the kings of these waters are the impressive groupers, which here can weight over 50 kilos, and the opportunistic amberjacks.

Sometimes you can see curious and harmless sharks like angelsharks, lying on the sandy bottoms like lizards.

Spectacular, bright seabeds of considerable ecological value. A world full of life on volcanic lava, an underwater oasis that seeks recognition as a reserve for its preservation.

CHOPPY WATERS

Punta de Jandía is the place where the two ocean currents that caress the island meet. This is Fuerteventura's end of the earth, a place of small shallows and tortuous underwater gorges of recognized environmental riches, with huge schools of horse mackerel, barracuda and tuna feeding in its choppy waters. The natural spectacle is stunning.

Marvellous displays which extend along the wave-cut platforms of Amanay and Garcey, between Ajuy and La Pared.







The great virgin territories inland, the Barranco de Ajuy and Mt Cardón are some of the areas where the 'guirre', Egyptian vulture, the largest bird of prey in the Canary Islands, ensures its survival. An imposing bird and an inseparable companion for our rural population.



AIR

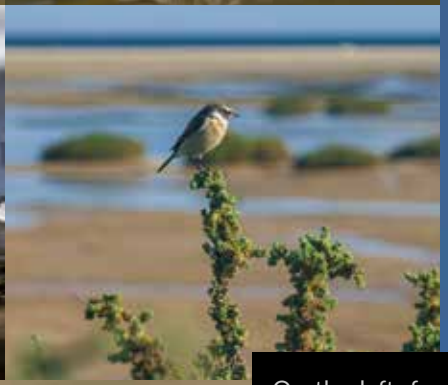
THE KINGDOM OF THE HEAVENS

A PARADISE FOR BIRDWATCHERS. FROM WINDWARD TO LEEWARD, IN PÁJARA, ORNITHOLOGY ENTHUSIASTS WILL FIND THEIR VERY OWN EL DORADO. DIVERSITY ABOUNDS, FROM THE COAST AND ITS WETLANDS TO THE PROTECTED AREAS INLAND. THE AREA CAPTIVATES VISITORS WITH ITS RICH BIRDLIFE, ITS ENDEMIC SPECIES, AND MIGRATORY BIRDS... BUT, ABOVE ALL, WITH ITS *GUIRRES* FUERTEVENTURA'S MOST EMBLEMATIC SPECIES.









On the left, from top to bottom, ruddy shelduck, marbled teal, common terns, stonechat, and houbara bustard.
Below these lines and to the right, the common spoonbill and buzzard.







THEY ALL HAVE THEIR PLACE IN THE ECOSYSTEM

Embark on a fascinating journey to discover the migratory birds that choose to shelter in our wetlands. Delight your senses with the majestic elegance of the Barbary falcon and the grace of our ospreys, *los guinchos*. Marvel at the ospreys' imposing presence and the peculiarity of our endemic Berthelot's pipit.

Explore the sky and marvel at Cory's shearwaters, emblematic symbols of our shores. Step into our desert landscapes, in the most authentic and extensive representation of Canary Island steppe habitats that, in Pájara, are home to the Canarian houbara, another of the distinctive fauna on Fuerteventura. Gaze at the buzzards and Barbary falcons on the escarpments of Arco de Cofete, watch graceful egrets, spoonbills and redshanks... enjoy seeing the exotic hadada ibis, and share space with crows, hoopoes, whimbrels, dunlins, trumpeter finches and pin-tailed sandgrouse... Discover all the richness and diversity of our birdlife, a winged symphony that enriches our skies and connects us with the wonders of nature.

HOME TO ENDEMIC SPECIES

Did you know that a total of 250 bird species have been documented in Fuerteventura, and that Pájara is home to several endemic species, such as the Canarian Houbara, Berthelot's pipit, and the 'guirre'Egyptian Vulture?
This is an extraordinary place for birdwatching.



STARLIGHT

WE BOAST ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NIGHT LANDSCAPES IN THE CANARY ISLANDS, WITH IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATION. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE MAINTAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING THE QUALITY OF OUR NIGHT SKY. WE ARE A STARLIGHT RESERVE AND OUR SICASUMBRE VIEWPOINT, IN THE JANDÍA PENINSULA, IS OUR WAY OF SHARING AND FACILITATING THE DISCOVERY OF OUR STUNNING SKY.

At the Sicasumbre Viewpoint, in addition to breathtaking views of our natural spaces, you will also find elements that enrich the experience, including a sundial and a vertical clock, stands and mounts for telescopes and cameras, a scale model of the solar system, and a skyline highlighting key points at solstices and equinoxes.


Pájara
SKY


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

OUR NATURAL SPACES ARE THE SETTING FOR OUR PEOPLE'S FUTURE. LIVING, CHANGING LANDSCAPES THAT ADAPT DAY BY DAY TO THE NEEDS OF THEIR INHABITANTS, PRESERVING THE SYMBOLS OF THEIR IDENTITY, EVEN IF THEY ARE INTRODUCED SPECIES. FOCUSED ON PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT.

PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA

MAINTAINING OUR BIODIVERSITY AND LANDSCAPE VALUES, RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

We are a natural treasure with a fascinating history of conservation. This story immerses us in landscapes shaped by ingeniously tailoring farming activities to the challenging conditions of the environment. In this setting, the livestock sector plays a leading role, with approximately 10,000 registered goats grazing in our municipality.

Our goal is to balance the economic needs of livestock farmers with the preservation of our environment and animal welfare. We want to ensure this activity remains an integral part of our rural life, while safeguarding our rich biodiversity and all the splendour of our natural landscape.

In Pájara, the relationship between the people and the land is a harmonious dance where sustainability and living alongside nature are intertwined. Through responsible care for our resources and the promotion of respectful agricultural practices, we aspire to build a future where agricultural heritage and environmental protection go hand in hand, creating a lasting legacy for future generations.

A TRADITION THAT PROTECTS

We keep the tradition of *apañadas* alive in Vinamar, Cardón and Pecenescal, as well as in Cofete, refurbishing the *stone corrals* used to hold the goats that live semi-wild in our mountains, to provide a form of goat control essential to protect the territory.






PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA





Wild Majorero donkeys in Cofete, the Majorero camel, and the Majorero dog, all native to the island.

DROMEDARY CAMELS, WILD DONKEYS AND MAJORERO DOGS ARE PART OF THE TERRITORY

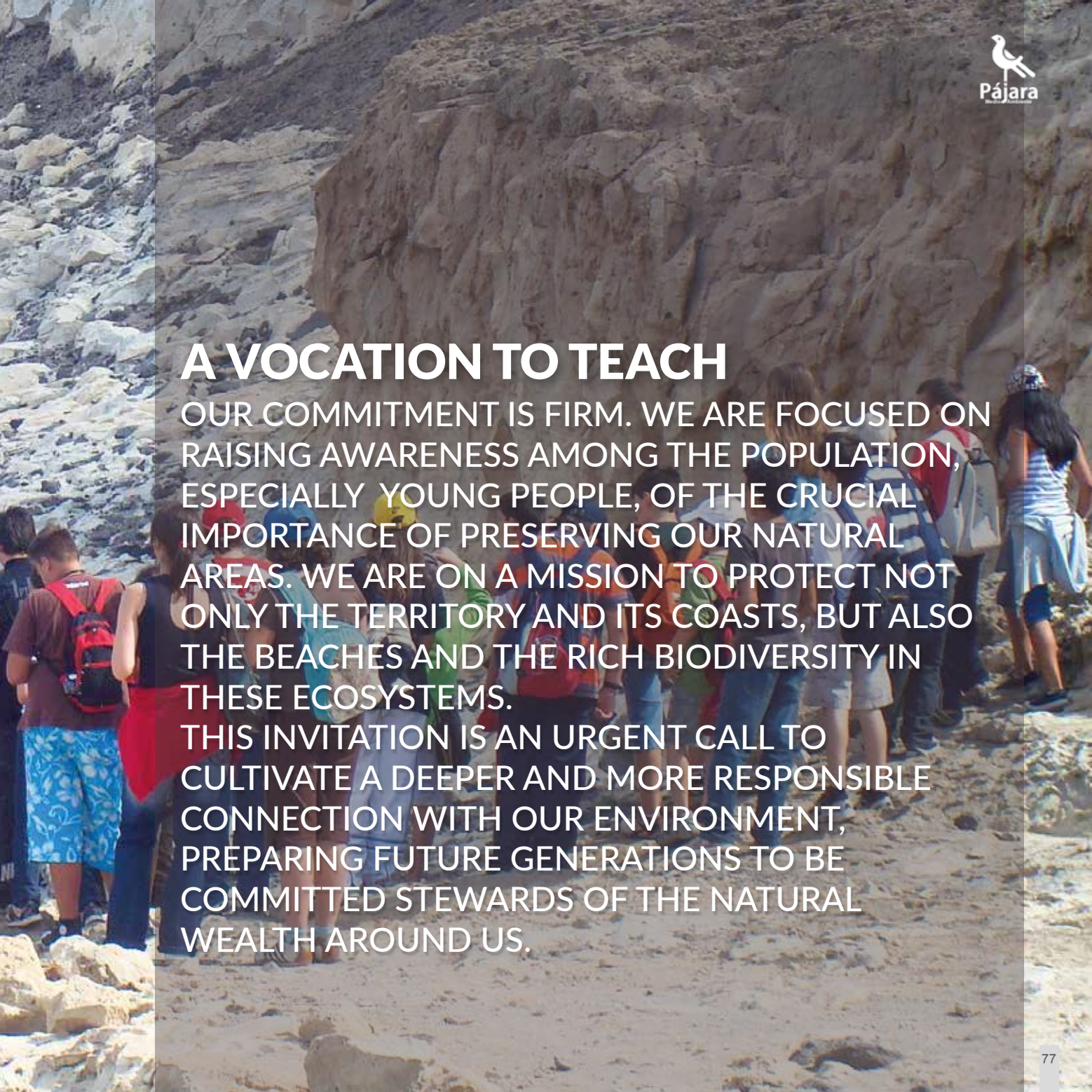
Feral and domesticated livestock, with and without shepherds, adomesticated, are breeds of their own, and form part of a fauna that many do not think of as such. Traces of a past with donkeys and camels, descendants of those originally brought to the island. Many work in our fields, while the feral ones sculpt our landscapes. Both have an important impact on our environment and our culture, as they are part of our heritage.

The camels are robust, strong and muscular and are, actually dromedaries. The donkeys are well-proportioned and harmonious in appearance, long-lived, sober and able to withstand adverse conditions. They are perfectly adapted to the searing temperatures and scanty rainfall in our territory. Our Majorero donkeys have been recognized as a breed since 1997 in Spain's Official Catalogue of Livestock Breeds, and were mainly used as work animals. Today we seek to include them in a protected rural environment to help recover ancestral ways of life that are sustainable and compatible with the environment.

SHEPHERDS, GUARD DOGS AND COMPANIONS

Lighter dogs for herding, and more robust ones for use as guard dogs, our Majorero breed has the characteristics it needs it to perform its tasks in Pájara, with its rugged, volcanic terrain. Loyal and brave, with a coat ranging from dark grey to black and a brindle pattern extending from the back, with stripes ranging from brown to beige.


PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA



A VOCATION TO TEACH

OUR COMMITMENT IS FIRM. WE ARE FOCUSED ON RAISING AWARENESS AMONG THE POPULATION, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE, OF THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING OUR NATURAL AREAS. WE ARE ON A MISSION TO PROTECT NOT ONLY THE TERRITORY AND ITS COASTS, BUT ALSO THE BEACHES AND THE RICH BIODIVERSITY IN THESE ECOSYSTEMS.

THIS INVITATION IS AN URGENT CALL TO CULTIVATE A DEEPER AND MORE RESPONSIBLE CONNECTION WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT, PREPARING FUTURE GENERATIONS TO BE COMMITTED STEWARDS OF THE NATURAL WEALTH AROUND US.

PLAYAS DE JANDIA
FUERTEVENTURA

OUR MISSION: TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF OUR PROTECTED AREAS SO THEY CAN LEARN TO VALUE AND PRESERVE THEM

The uniqueness of our ecosystems requires collaboration from everyone to preserve them. In this spirit, the policy upheld by our Environmental Department is clearly focused on promoting Environmental Education as a basic tool for raising public awareness of the vital need to preserve our environment.

Our aims are clear and comprehensive: we seek to increase collective awareness of the balanced use of natural resources, promote the sustainable use of ecosystems, and foster understanding of fundamental environmental concepts.

This approach also includes the critical task of familiarizing the educational community with local and global environmental issues, and integrating these essential aspects into schoolchildren's education. We also strive to empower young people, giving them the tools they need to understand and deal effectively with the complex interactions in their environment.

In addition, we aspire to instill reflection and the development of a critical capacity in the new generations, encouraging them to propose their own ideas for conserving the environment and find solutions to the daily challenges that impact our relationship with the territory.

This comprehensive approach seeks to build an empowered community committed to the preservation of our valuable natural environment.







Pájara
MEDIO AMBIENTE

www.pajara.es
www.visitjandia.es

Financiado por la Unión Europea
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Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia

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