

identification data

Name
TEIDE
Protection Category
National Park
Autonomous Region
Canarias
Province
Santa Cruz de Tenerife
Area
18,990 hectares
Longitude: **16° 29'00" W-16° 44'00" W**
Latitude: **28° 09'00" N-28° 20'00" N**
Created
22 January 1954
Reclassified
25 March 1981

addresses

TEIDE NATIONAL PARK
Park Offices
(and "Telesforo Bravo" Visitor Centre):
c/ Doctor Sixto Perera González, 25
38300 La Orotava
Tel. 922922371 Fax: 922326497
e-mail: teide.maot@gobiernodecanarias.org
http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/red-parques-nacionales/nuestros-parques/teide/
http://www.parquesnacionalesdecnarias.es/es/teide/
"El Portillo" Visitor Centre
Carretera La Orotava - Granadilla, Km 32,100
38300 El Portillo, La Orotava (Santa Cruz de Tenerife)
"Cañada Blanca" Visitor Centre
Carretera La Orotava - Granadilla, Km 46,400;
Parador de Turismo de las Cañadas del Teide
38300 La Orotava (Santa Cruz de Tenerife)

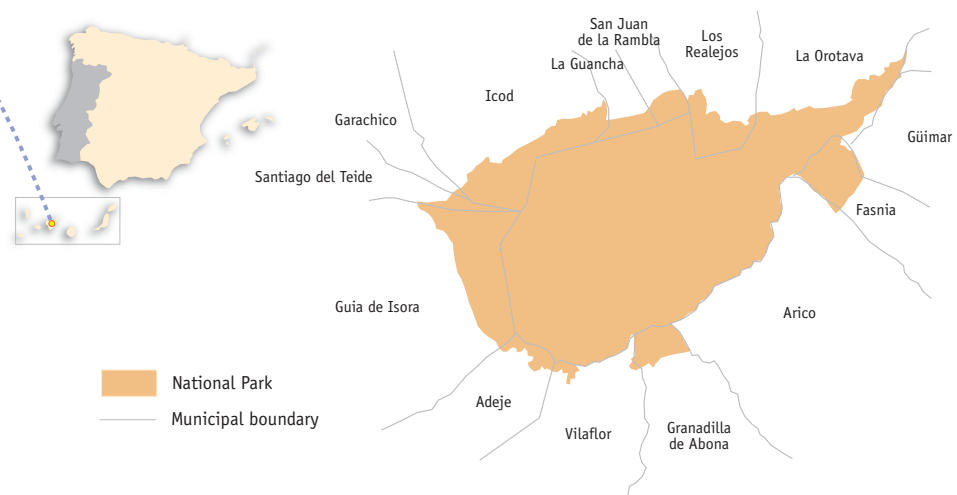
diplomas

1989
European Diploma for Protected Areas of the Council of Europe.
Renewed in 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009
1995
Environment Award for Institutions, presented by Tenerife Island Council
1996
Distinction for Tourist Merit awarded by the Ministry of Trade and Tourism
1999
"Amables del Turismo y Convivencia Ciudadana" Award, presented by the Santa Cruz de Tenerife Centre for Initiatives and Tourism
2005
The environmental management system ISO 14001
2006
Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS)
2007
World Heritage
Natural habitats (Natura 2000)



Teide Peak and Montaña Blanca or White Mountain.

The Park is located in the centre of the Island of Tenerife, flanked to the north by the Orotava Valley and to the south by the Vilaflor Pine Forest. It is situated on lands belonging to the municipalities of Adeje, Fasia, Garachico, Granadilla de Abona, Guía de Isora, Icod de los vinos, La Guancha, La Orotava, Los Realejos, San Juan de la Rambla, Santiago del Teide and Vilaflor.



The National Park. The Park is located in the centre of the Island of Tenerife and is the only subtropical alpine area in Europe. This is a key factor in its biological wealth, and explains why many species found there are exclusive to the Park. The first thing that strikes one is the immense caldera called *Circo de Las Cañadas*. A depression 17 km across, it is bounded to the north-east, east and south by steep escarpments rising as high as 700 m. Above this, mount Teide rears up to over 2,000 m, beyond the influence of the moist trade winds. Climatic conditions are totally different from those prevailing in the rest of the archipelago. Low relative humidity all year round and very little rainfall make Teide uncommonly arid compared with other mountain areas. These peculiarities lend it a completely different appearance depending on the season – totally snow-clad in winter, covered with bright colours in spring and dry and arid in summer.

Principal ecosystems
Systems associated with volcanic processes and associated vegetation.

Teide, an active volcano. In the centre of Las Cañadas towers the Teide-Pico Viejo volcanic complex, a stratovolcano formed in the Pleistocene by the accumulation of matter from successive eruptions. It is still active today, as evidenced by the intense fumarole activity in the summit crater. Teide is topped by a light-coloured cone with a crater 80 m in diameter. At 3,717.98 m, this is the highest point in Spain and in any Atlantic archipelago. In Roman times it was lower, lighter in colour and the summit was rounded rather than peaked. There was an eruption in the Middle Ages lasting several decades, in the course of which the black lava of Teide was thrown up and the mountain attained its present height. The last eruption within the Park area occurred in 1798. A series of new mouths opened up in the sides of the Pico Viejo or Old Peak, known as *Las Narices del Teide* or The Nostrils of Teide. For three months these mouths spewed out immense quantities of lava, covering a large area of land and giving birth to the disquieting *malpais* or badlands in the western sector of the Park.



establishment

Teide was declared a National Park by Decree of 22 January 1954. Act 5/1981 of 25 March established a special legal regime for the Park in implementation of the Protected Natural Spaces Act. Enlargement of the Park to its present size of 18,990 ha was approved on 2 July 1999.

man and his imprint on the park and its surroundings



Bee-keeping is a traditional pursuit in the Park.

There has never been much human activity on Teide.

The Observatory buildings – part of the scenery.



Cultural aspects. The first inhabitants of Tenerife were the Guanches, an essentially pastoral people who moved up to the summits in summertime in search of pasture for their herds. They spent the summer in the Cañadas with their sheep and goats. They guarded their flocks with the help of faithful dogs who were actually buried with their masters, a fact confirmed by remains found in the Llano de Maja. Numerous archaeological remains bear witness to seasonal occupation – huts, graves (some containing mummified bodies), funeral furnishings, obsidian utensils and ceramics. For these people Teide was a holy mountain, their "Axis Mundi" or place that holds up the sky. Following the conquest of the Canaries by the Crown of Castile, all the islands – and particularly Teide – were regularly visited by the scientific expeditions that set off to discover the New World from the 16th century onwards. Attracted by the unique flora and fauna and the volcanic scenery of La Caldera, many scientists have bequeathed tokens of their interest. Examples include Abbot Feuillée, who produced the first scientific measurement of the height of Teide in 1724; Alexander von Humboldt, who laid the foundations for modern botanical studies, and the Germans Fritsch, Hartung and Reiss, who drew up the first geological map of Tenerife (still generally usable) in 1866. In the last few decades, Tenerife has become one of Europe's chief tourist destinations and the Park is a must for most visitors to the island.

Human activity. The famous *Cañadas del Teide* are large, flat valley bottoms created by the accumulation of matter from the erosion of the upper escarpments of the cirque walls. Light yellow in colour, these vales were once used as natural passages and pastures for sheep and goats.

flora and fauna

Flora. The most representative species are two leguminous bushes – Teide white broom, which in spring is clad in white blossom, and the yellow-blossomed *codoso* or sticky broom. There are communities of Teide violets, the emblem and pride of the Park, which grow on scoria and pumice at altitudes over 2,500 m. One of the most spectacular plants is the Teide bugloss, which can grow up to 3 m tall, displaying hundreds of tiny bright red blossoms in springtime. Other interesting species include the cardine thistle or the dwarf Teide bugloss, which can only be seen in this area.



Fauna. The catalogue of the Park's invertebrates, compiled in 1997, includes 1,052 species, 409 of which were hitherto unknown in this area. Reptiles include the Canary lizard (*Gallotia galloti eisentrauti*), the Canary dragon gecko (*Tarentola delalandii delalandii*), popularly associated with good luck, and the Canary skink. Birdlife is relatively plentiful and varied in comparison with other Macaronesian archipelagos, but scarcer than in continental areas. The Canary Island chaffinch, whose strong beak is specially adapted for feeding on Canary Island pine seeds, lives and nests in the belt of pines circling the high mountain area of Tenerife and is a regular visitor to the Park. Other common bird species include the kestrel, the great grey shrike, the buzzard and the canary. Mammal species are scarcer owing to the difficulty of reaching the islands, with the exception of bats, which are able to fly to them. The Park contains five different species of bat – Savi's pipistrelle, the Madeira pipistrelle, the Canary long-eared bat, Leisler's bat and the European free-tailed bat. All other mammal species have been introduced by man over the centuries. Sheep and goats were introduced in aboriginal times and rabbits and rats became acclimatised in the late 15th century. The Corsican mouflon was introduced to Tenerife as a game species thirty years ago.

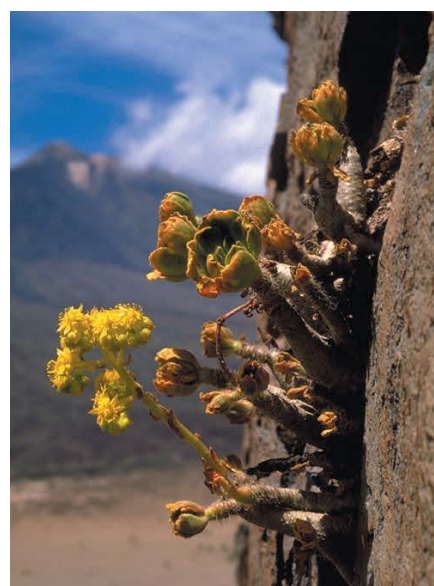


Spectacular volcanic scenery coloured by flixweed, with Teide in the background.

FLORA
1 Teide bugloss
2 Teide flixweed
3 Teide white broom
4 Teide daisy
5 Teide violet

The summit of Teide: the highest point in Spain.

DATA
■ maximum altitude of Teide: 3,718 m
■ mean altitude of the Park: 2,000 m



The beauty of blossoming bejaque (*Aeonium smithii*) clinging to the sheer rock.

FAUNA
6 Kestrel 7 Great grey shrike
8 Barbary partridge
9 Canary lizard
10 Canary Island chaffinch
11 Berthelot's pipit



Teide violets in bloom. A species exclusive to the Park.



The striking Teide bugloss is emblematic of the Park.



El Roque Cinchado: a magnificent example of geological fantasy.

visiting the park



A sea of clouds at the base of Teide



Spring in the Park



Teide bugloss



Lava beds



View of the Old Peak crater

General Information. The Park is served by bus (*guagua*) lines 348 and 342. To reach the north entrance by car, take the TF-21 (Orotava-Granadilla) and the TF-24 (La Laguna-El Portillo). The southern entrance is reached by way of TF-21 or the Boca Tauce-Chio road (TF-38).

Visitor Centres. There are two Visitor Centres open daily (except 25 December and 1 January) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *El Portillo Visitor Centre* exhibits the geological history of the Park and the relations and environment of the life forms that inhabit it. The *Cañada Blanca Visitor Centre* offers an exhibition on the interaction and mutual influence of man and the *Cañadas*.

The origin of the Park. The origin of the Circo de Las Cañadas is one of the most disputed aspects of volcanism in the Canary Islands today. The most plausible hypothesis is the sliding theory, according to which 170,000 years ago the flanks of the Edificio Cañadas (an immense volcanic complex which some scientists estimate to have been 6,000 m high) were destabilised by an excessive build-up of matter. They slid towards the sea leaving a huge horseshoe-shaped depression, which is now the amphitheatre of Las Cañadas and the Icod-La Guancha valley. Intense volcanic activity subsequently filled in the cavity to produce the Teide stratovolcano.

Routes
Guided excursions. Visitors can go on free guided walks. Apply to the Park Office and Centres. **Trail network.** There is a comprehensive network of trails for walkers to enjoy the Park on their own.

Other services
Botanical garden. Situated next to the Portillo Visitor Centre. This provides the opportunity to view Canary alpine plants (which are difficult to see in their natural environment), many of them endemic to the Park or the island.

- No camping
- Do not disturb the animals or pick flowers
- No rubbish
- No loud noises
- No collecting of rock samples
- No fires
- No picnicking

advice and safety

Visitors to the Park are expected to respect the peace of the place and cooperate in its preservation. In high mountain areas any physical effort is exhausting; save your energy to avoid tiring early. A slow, steady pace is best. Use footwear suitable for loose, stony mountain terrain to avoid twisted ankles. Take special precautions in winter, particularly if it has snowed, and remember that in summer the sunlight is extremely intense and can cause serious burns. Be wary of bees in springtime and summer in places where there are hives. In July and November, when shooting expeditions are organised to cull the mammals imported to the Park, never stray from the trails and pay attention to the signs.

don't miss:

- The famous *Cañadas* are large flat areas where matter from the erosion of the upper escarpments gathers. Light yellow in colour, these vales were once used as natural passages and pastures.
- The *Teide violet*, growing at altitudes over 2500 m, is emblematic of the Park and a source of pride.
- The most characteristic and abundant plant is the white-flowered "Teide broom".
- One of the species endemic to the Canaries and found in the Park is the Canary Island chaffinch, a large, robust bird with a strong beak, which nests and lives in the pinewoods surrounding Teide.
- To climb up to Teide Peak, you need a permit from the Web <http://www.reservasparquesnacionales.es>

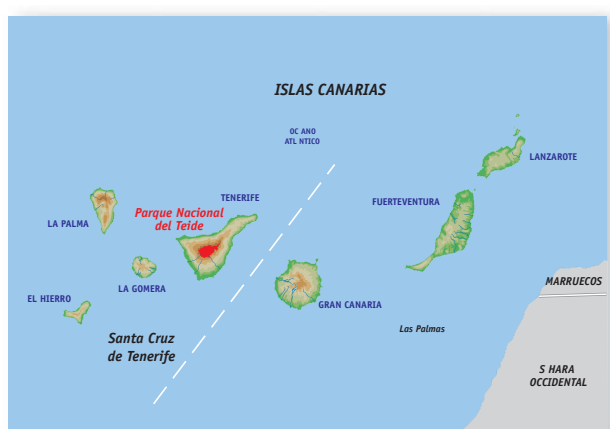
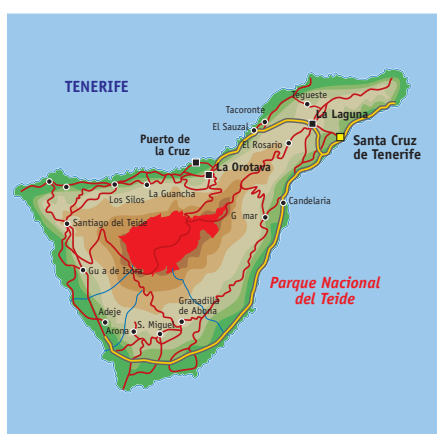
map of Teide National Park

TEIDE
PARQUE NACIONAL

Your safety is our concern, but it is your responsibility.



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For any further information related to the paths, ask in the Park Information Centres