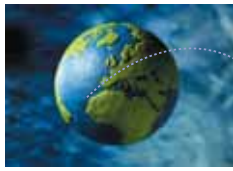
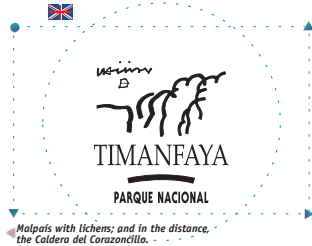


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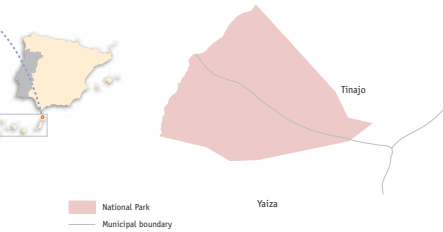
Name
Timanfaya
Protection Category
National Park
Autonomous Region
Canarias
Province
Las Palmas
Area
5,107 hectares
Longitude 13° 46' 57" W
Latitude 29° 2' 6" N
Created
9 August 1974
Reclassified
25 March 1981

PARQUE NACIONAL DE TIMANFAYA
Mancha Blanca
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35560 Tinajo, Lanzarote
Tel. 928 84 02 38 / 84 02 40
e-mail: timanfaya@oapn.mma.es

1993
Biosphere Reserve
1994
Special Protection Area for Birds



Declared National Park in 1974, Timanfaya is in Lanzarote, the most northerly of the Canary Islands, located in the west-central part of the island in the municipal districts of Yaiza and Tinajo. The Park has a perimeter of some 30 km, enclosing an area of 5.1 km².



establishment

Timanfaya was declared National Park on 9 August 1974 by Parliamentary Decree 2615/1974. It was reclassified by Act 6/1981 on 25 March 1981, with a total area of 5,107 ha.

The National Park. The Park is a typical example of recent volcanic activity in the Canary Islands. It contains many striking geological features of considerable scientific value, such as aa and pahoehoe lava flows interspersed by islets of land surviving from before historic eruptions, volcanic cones and tubes, bubbles, domes (known as *horizitos*), geothermal accidents and so forth. Together, these form a rejuvenated landscape, fruit of a process of creation and destruction, which conjures up a world of fantastical colours and textures. Timanfaya comes down to us virtually intact, thanks to a slow process of natural evolution, and the fact that it has barely been touched by human activity. In order to preserve this landscape, it has been assigned the maximum protection category as a National Park, and over 90% of its area has been reclassified as a Reserved Area. Scientific research and general education about the natural environment are promoted in the National Park by facilities that include a beautifully designed Visitor and Interpretative Centre and a geodynamic laboratory located in the *Casa de los Camelleros* or *Camelers House*. For visitors seeking a better feel for the environment, there are guided tours for small groups.

Principal ecosystems
Aa lava flows (malpais), cinder cones, areas of balsam spurge and coastal flats.

Origins of the Park. Timanfaya is the product of a violent upheaval including two historically confirmed periods of eruption. The longer and more intense commenced in 1730 and continued until 1736. The more recent one occurred in 1824. The 18th-century eruptions, affecting a total of 195.2 km², caused the emergence of volcanic cones associated with tectonic fissures lying in an ENE-WSW direction. The last series of eruptions in Lanzarote occurred in 1824, with the emergence of three new volcanic cones: *Tao*, *Tingitator* or the New Volcano, and the New Fire Volcano, also known as *El Chirero*. The latter is the only product of that period within the geographical boundaries of the Park. Reminders of the past are still present in high surface temperatures; geothermal anomalies produced by a residual deposit or magma chamber relatively close to the surface at a depth of 4-5 km, so that temperatures of up to 510°C are recorded at a depth of only 13 m and between 100 and 200°C at surface level.

man and his imprint on the park and its surroundings



Geothermal anomalies are demonstrated to visitors.
Human activity has never been intense in Timanfaya.



Cultural aspects. The first settlers arrived on Lanzarote around 500 BC. They probably came in primitive boats, driven from the African coast by the "hamatan" wind. The indigenous name for the island was *Tyenyogaka*, the ruddy mountain. The historical name for this people was "mojos". The first European to discover the island was Lancelotto Malocello, a Genoese who landed in the first third of the 14th century. Lanzarote was conquered in 1402 by Jean de Bethencourt and Gadifer de la Salle under the aegis of the Crown of Castile. The conquest of the Canary Islands proceeded throughout the 15th century, cutting short the historical evolution of the indigenous population. The regime established there was a feudal one characterised by lord/vassal relationships. This lasted until the 19th century, when the seigneurial regime disappeared and the original parishes became today's municipal councils.

Traditions. Ancestral customs mingle naturally with present everyday life. For example, in *Uga* the roofs of the houses are sloped to collect rainwater in cisterns where a species of fungus known as *saltón* is fermented and cultivated. *Saltón* is an effective purifier, which washes leaving the water drinkable. *Canary wrestling tournaments* are a regular feature on the island - a long-established and widely practised tradition. This is a team game in which every town has its own side. One of the traditions in which the whole island takes part is the *Romería de la Virgen de los Volcanes*, a religious festival in honour of the Virgin of the Volcanoes that takes place every 15th of September.

The dromedary was introduced by farmers as a working animal. Since the advent of tourism, it has been used solely for visitor excursions.

flora and fauna

Flora. Harsh climatic conditions severely limit the range of flora. Annual average rainfall is no more than 125 mm, there is a great deal of sunshine and a considerable difference between day and night-time temperatures. One of the most striking aspects of the landscape is that there is no tree life. However, its beauty is enhanced by living forms; lichens that are capable of surviving the harsh conditions of the Park and carpet the lavas with striking colours. As the dominant life-form, they colonise the entire volcanic surface, facing NNE to receive the influence of the trade winds. There are nearly 200 different taxa of lichens. On the extremely rough aa lava flows, known as *malpais* in the Canaries, dense populations of *Stereocaulon vesuvianum* flourish, chiefly on shadowed horizontal surfaces. On the higher, steeper sides of volcanic cones, also influenced by the trade winds, we encounter *Romalina bourgeoana*, a species requiring greater humidity. In addition to lichens there subsist other forms endemic to the Canaries or locally, such as the Timanfaya seed, which grow on a substratum of fragmentary material where the ground is unstable.

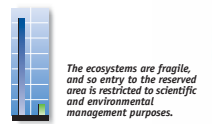


Fauna. The harsh and hostile climatic conditions limit the number of terrestrial vertebrates, of which there are only three mammalian forms (black rat, Canary shrew and rabbit) and two reptile forms (the Atlantic lizard and the Canary Island wall gecko). There is a massive influx of birdlife in spring and autumn, most of them birds of passage or strays. Of these species, 22 may be considered to winter here. The Park contains a total of 17 species of nesting birds belonging to 16 families, such as the Barbary partridge, the turtle dove, the barn owl and the kestrel. Timanfaya is the 10th National Park in the Canary Islands that includes littoral ecosystems. The littoral zone is abrupt, consisting of medium-height cliffs and only two beach areas - El Cochino and El Paso. Red crab, limpet and little top-shells are frequent. Colonisation of the littoral zone of the Park has been rapid. Examples of marine life are rich and varied, including starfish, octopus, cuttlefish, moray eel, sape, the colourful ornate wrasse and the parrot fish.



Lichens. An elementary but hardy life form.

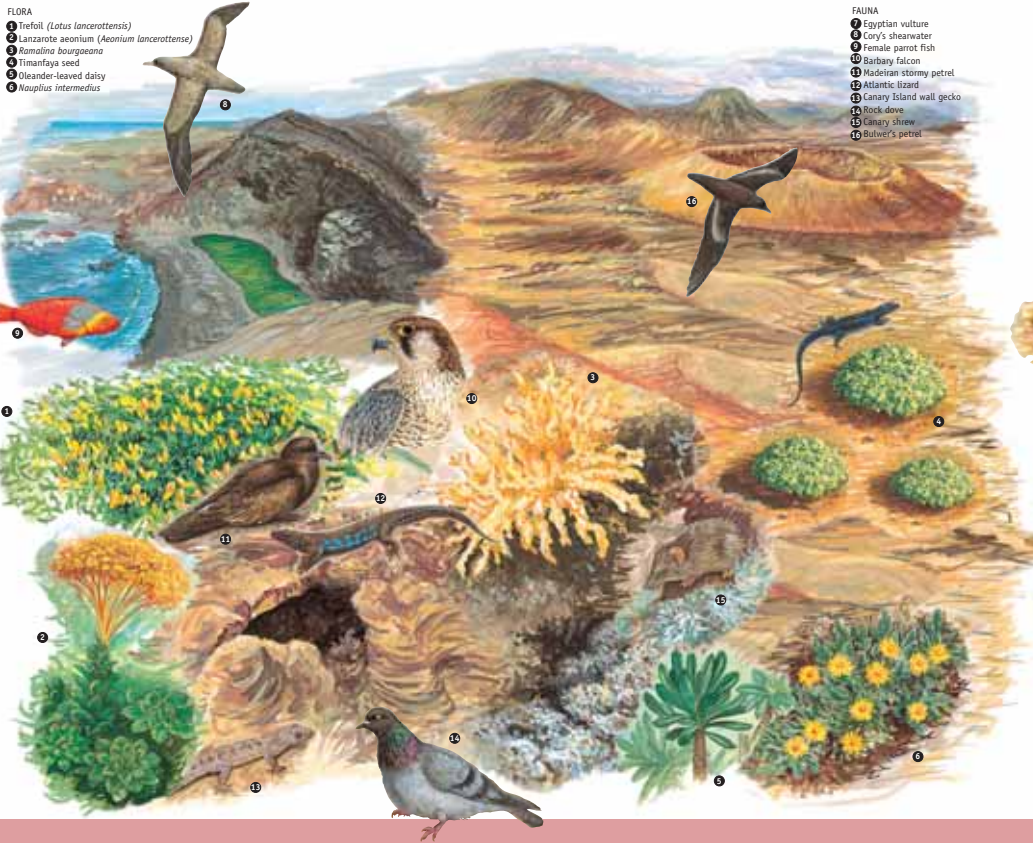
- FLORA
- 1 Trefoil (*Lotus lancaerottensis*)
 - 2 Lanzarote aconium (*Aeonium lancaerottense*)
 - 3 *Romalina bourgeoana*
 - 4 Timanfaya seed
 - 5 Oleander-leaved daisy
 - 6 *Nauplius intermedius*



The ecosystems are fragile, and so entry to the reserved area is restricted to scientific and environmental management purposes.



Prospect from the Montaña Rajada viewpoint.



- FAUNA
- 7 Egyptian vulture
 - 8 Gory's shearwater
 - 9 Female parrot fish
 - 10 Barbary falcon
 - 11 Mediterranean stormy petrel
 - 12 Atlantic lizard
 - 13 Canary Island wall gecko
 - 14 Rock dove
 - 15 Canary shrew
 - 16 Bulwer's petrel



A female parrot fish.



The Timanfaya seed is a species endemic to Lanzarote that is found in the Park.

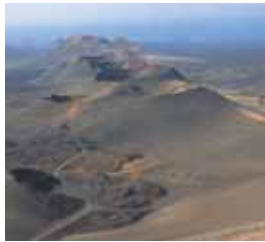


The Atlantic lizard is endemic to Lanzarote.

visiting the park



El Pajerto crater



A row of volcanic cones



Balsam spurge



Cluster of domes or hornitos



Volcanic cone of Montaña Rajada

General Information. The various facilities and infrastructure of the National Park can be reached from the LZ-67 highway linking the towns of Tinajo and Yaiza.

Visitor Centres. Before commencing a visit, you are recommended to drop into the Mancha Blanca Visitor Centre, which offers a complete overview of Timanfaya National Park in several languages, consisting of a series of displays and an audiovisual programme, all free of charge. The Centre has access facilities for the disabled, as well as a gift and book shop. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Museum-Information Centre at Echadero de los Camellos has an exhibition on the National Park, the traditional use of dromedaries, trappings, obsolete farming implements, etc. and is equipped for the physically and sensorially disabled. There is a point of sale for publications. Open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please note that the following prohibitions apply within the Park boundaries:

- No camping
- No hunting
- No rubbish
- Do not disturb the animals or pick flowers
- Do not stray from designated routes
- Do not alight from vehicles in unsurfaced zones
- No picnicking
- No potholing or outdoor sports
- No loud noises

advice and safety

Visitors to the Park are asked to respect the peace of the place and cooperate in its preservation. Do not disturb the animals and remember that you are not allowed to uproot, pick or extract plants or minerals, or to disturb any other natural element. As far as possible, you should take any litter back to town to avoid overflowing litter bins. Never leave litter anywhere other than in the receptacles provided. Free camping is absolutely prohibited throughout the National Park. It is forbidden to light fires, to build stone dikes or channels, to make loud noises or to fly kites, gas balloons, hang-gliders or paragliders, to make loud noises or to stray from the designated paths. Vehicles are not allowed outside the surfaced areas open to the public, and visitors must not alight from vehicles outside the designated parking areas. It is also forbidden to walk on lava beds or any kind of volcanic material. Pets are not allowed inside the Park. Walkers are advised to wear comfortable clothing and outdoor or sports footwear. Commercial photography, film or video-making is not allowed. Anyone wishing to undertake such activities should apply for a special permit at the National Park offices in Tinajo.

don't miss:

- ▶ Lichens are the sole inhabitants of the inhospitable volcanic surface, where they survive thanks to the trade winds.
- ▶ The most emblematic volcanic cones in the Park are Montaña de Timanfaya, Montaña Rajada, Caldera del Corazoncillo, Volcán Nuevo del Fuego or El Chinerero and Calderas Quemadas.
- ▶ Inside the Park is one of the modules of the Lanzarote Geodynamic Laboratory.
- ▶ The tourist facilities designed by César Manrique are a pleasure to behold.
- ▶ Vestiges of the past still linger, with temperatures as high as 100-120°C at ground level.

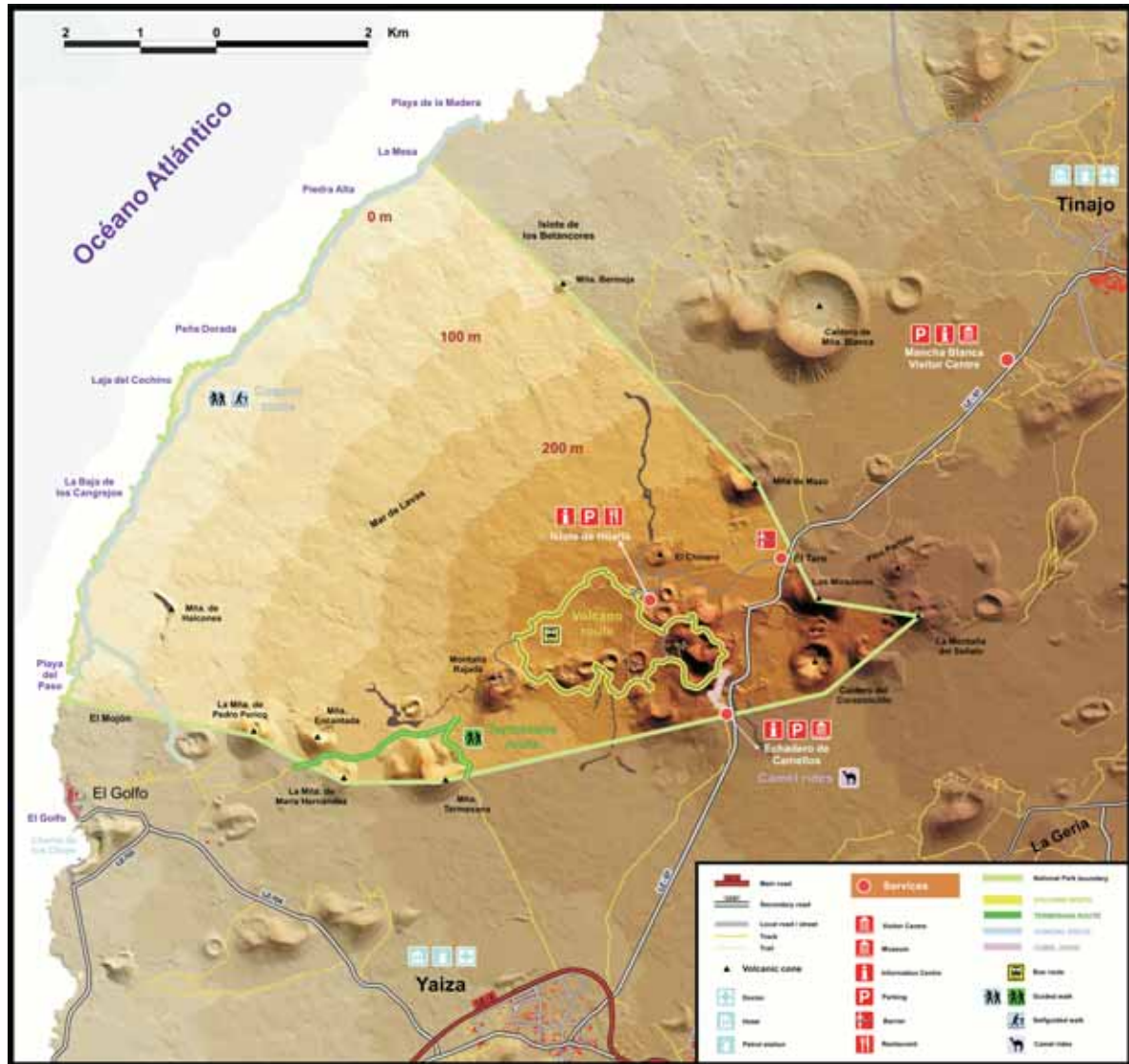
map of Timanfaya National Park



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