

physical environment

To the north of the Park, the steep slopes of Lomo de Bas are present. The hills can be as high as 600 meters of altitude and the hillsides descend rapidly

and sink into the sea where a cliffy coast with small coves is formed.

The rocks here are metamorphic, with slates and quartzites. The huge

mass of Cabo Cope, in the south of the park, rises from the sea and gets to 242 meters in height above the water. The materials here have a

sedimentary origin and limestone creates an abrupt relief. Between the northern and the southern borders of

the park there are some gently sloped areas with some dry riverbeds. In the coastline, there is an interesting group

of fossilized dunes. The climate in the area is the typical

Mediterranean climate but with a quite marked semi-arid nature. Rain occurs just in spring or autumn and it very rarely rains more than 200

mm. There is a dry period up to 11 months. The average temperatures range from 13 to 27°C, so it has been given the name "Costa Calida" (Warm Coast).

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suggestions for visitors

You are in a protected area of beautiful landscape and great natural value, which we attempt to preserve for the future generations. So during your visit try not to forget...

- Use authorised roads and footpaths.
- Domestic animals must be held.
- Camping and/or caravanning are not permitted in the area.
- Respect private propriety.
- Do not disturb neither harm animals and plants.
- Do not light fire unless authorised to do so.
- Please, use the garbage bins.
- For emergency, call number 112.

more information

- Consejería de Desarrollo Sostenible y Ordenación del Territorio (Council of Sustainable Development)
Tel.: 968 22 89 37/38 • Fax: 968 22 89 38
- Sistema de Información Geográfica y Ambiental (SIGA) (Environmental and Geographic Information System)
www.carm.es/medioambiente/
- Queries and Suggestions:
medioambiente@listas.carm.es



Región de Murcia
Consejería de Desarrollo Sostenible y Ordenación del Territorio
Dirección General del Medio Natural



Regional Park
Calnegre y Cabo Cope



introduction Calnegre and Cabo Cope

Regional Park is placed in the southern part of the Region of Murcia and in the most western part of the coast. The coastline of the park is more than 17 km and the park

covers an area of 1032.21 hectares shared by the municipalities of Aguilas and Lorca. The boundaries are Calabardina to the south, Puntas de Calnegre to the North-east and Lomo de Bas, a natural barrier to the north. The sea demarcates the limit to the east. Cabo Cope is a Special Protection Bird Area and has been proposed as a Site of Community Importance. Calnegre has also been proposed. This way, this nature reserve will be included in the European Natura 2000 Network.



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Information on the protected natural areas



fauna

The richness of the fauna is the greatest value of the Park. The variety of environments makes it possible to find very diverse animals. Reptiles such as the ocellated lizard, the red-tailed spiny-footed lizard, the Bedriaga's skink or the greek tortoise, which is in a serious danger of extinction and mammals such as the rabbit, the fox and the wild boar profit from the natural resources of this area.



Peregrine falcon



Greek tortoise

Birds form also a very large and varied group. In the coast it is not difficult to find seagulls, cormorants and shearwaters. Towards the interior, in the flat marshy lands of Marina de Cope, some other birds take shelter. Amongst them, there are crested larks, short-toed



Cormorant



Fox

larks and stone curlews. In the scrublands, some other birds such as the stonechat, the sardinian warbler and the trumpeter finch break the silence with their songs. The eagle owl, the Bonelli's eagle, and the peregrine falcon find in the rough topography of Cabo Cope a perfect place to breed.

vegetation

The great importance of the flora of the Park lies in both its variety



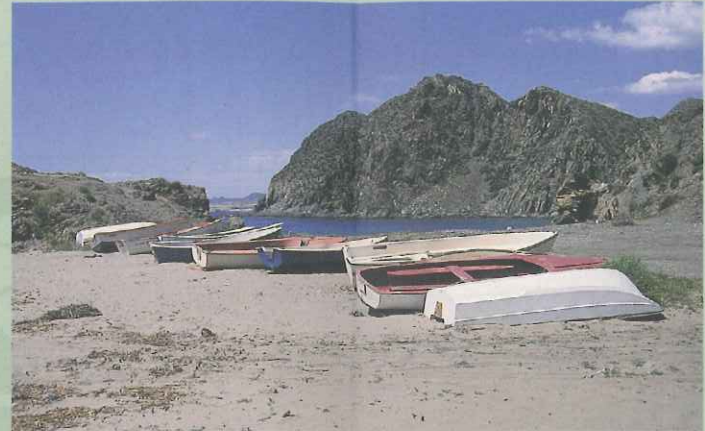
Beach daisy

and its exclusivity. Some of the endemic examples of the south-eastern Spain or Iberian-Africanisms have in the area one of the very few spots of distribution. The coastal scrublands have species like the wolfbane, small buckthorn, reedmace, common buckthorn, ramsthorn and wild olive tree that share space with other of smaller size such as the broom like kidney vetch, lavenders, thymes and lesser asparagus. A quite abundant species in Cabo Cope is the phoenician juniper, which appears

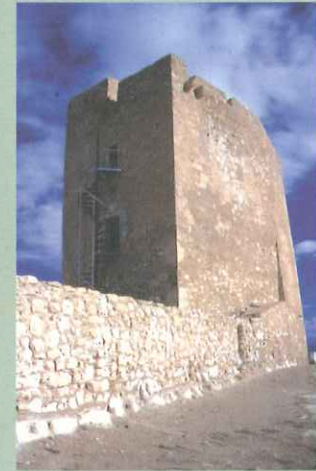
separated from the rest of its distribution. In the Marina de Cope the vegetation changes. The salinity of the soil makes it possible to be colonized by saltbushes and albardines. The coastline, with beaches and fossilized dunes, where the sea influence is clear, represents the habitat for the beach daisy or the Cretan bird's foot trefoil.

Men and Landscape

The remains of human presence in the area contribute to enrich even more the Park assets. As early as in prehistoric times, the caves in the zone were used, as some of the remains that date from the Neolithic suggest. There are also remains from an Argaric site in the Cerro de la Cruz.



At the foot of the breathtaking promontory of Cabo Cope there still stands the remains of an old hermitage from the 18th century, and half way the hillside there are some almost unidentifiable traces of old ramparts. The Cope Tower, built in the 16th century is the most singular historical remains in the area. It was built up in turbulent times with the aim of protecting and alerting the population, mainly fishermen and cattle farmers, to the Berber pirates. From more recent times are some other military constructions such as the Siscal Quarters.



The current landscape in the park is the result of human

exploitation of the natural resources. Activities like fishing in Puntas de Calnegre or traditional agriculture give way to some other activities such as tourism or greenhouse agriculture.



The Park Suggests

The almost permanent good weather allows the area to be visited anytime in the year, but during the summer, because of the possible high temperatures, it is recommended to carry some drinking water and some clothes to be protected from the sun. To fully enjoy the visit, it is highly recommended to carry some photographic and optical equipment. One of the best periods for a visit in the year is the final part of the winter, when due to the temperatures that the area enjoys, it is as if it were spring here, and all the vegetation is in full bloom. We must, however, be very careful because some of the birds will be nesting and our presence could disturb the process. The geological features are of the greatest interest. There are different materials and reliefs: cliffs, coves, paleodunes, etc. In addition to the previous, there are also remains of human activity from ancient times, all of them of great historical importance, which are worth visiting.

