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).

SUGGESTIONS FOR VISITORS

- You are in a protected area of a 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 property.
- 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

- Consejeria de Desarrollo Sostenible y Ordenacion del Territorio (Council of Sustainable Development)
  Phone: 906 22 89 37/38 Fax: 906 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

Introduction

Cabe de Cabe 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, Punta de Cabe de Cabe to the Northeast 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. Cala de Cabe has also been proposed. This way, this nature reserve will be included in the European Natura 2000 Network.
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 osculated 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.

Vegetation
The great importance of the flora of the Park lies in both its variety 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 wolf'sbane, small buckthorn, reedmace, common buckthorn, ramsthor and wild olive tree that share space with other of smaller size such as the broom like kidney vetch, lavenders, thymes and lesser asparagus.

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 Cape 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 Sicalo Quarters.

The current landscape in the park is the result of human exploitation of the natural resources. Activities like fishing in Punta de Catnegre or traditional agriculture give way to some other activities such as tourism or greenhouse agriculture.