

## GENERAL CHARACTERIZATION

The PNSACV covers a coastline turned to the Atlantic Ocean, between S. Torpes and Burgau.

It extends 2Km into the sea all along the coastline and it corresponds to an area of interface sea-land,

with a great variety of habitats. In the Natural Park occurs a lot of communities of birds, mammals, invertebrates (marine and terrestrials), plants and fishes by, that found their ecological balance in this region.



S. Vicente cape



Sagres promontory

The coastline of the Natural Park is characterized by cliffs, brooks, estuaries and marshes, small

beaches and dunes.

All the N.O. has pasture fields, lagoons, forests, where both plants and animals of an enormous scientific value, can be found.



Parque Natural do  
Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina

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## NATURAL PARK of SUDOESTE ALENTEJANO and COSTA VICENTINA



750 flora species,  
100 are endemic;  
12 species exist only here  
200 species of birds,  
26 species nest in cliffs

### LOCATION:

Portugal, Southwest Europe (Iberian Peninsula)

Latitude: between 36°59' N and 37° 55' N

Longitude: between 8° 40' W and 9° 00' W

### Area:

It covers a land area of 60 567ha and a maritime zone with 28 858ha

### Relief:

Mainly rocky with schist cliffs on the western coast, and calcareous on the southern coast

### Altitude on the coastline :

**Maximum** altitude, 156 m (Torre de Aspa, Vila do Bispo)

**Depth:** - 38m (2Km west of Pontal da Carrapateira, in the Ocean)

### CLIMATE:

The Natural Park with warm winters and mild summers, has a mediterranean climate and a strong marine influence.

### Average temperature (monthly):

Minimum, 6° : Maximum, 23° to 29°

### Average rainfall (annual):

West, 600mm ; Southwest, between 400mm and 500mm ; South between 50mm and 250mm

### Sun exposure:

From 2800 to 3000 hours per year

### Winds:

Blowing from NW and North, mainly in summer

### CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage has unequalled place in the Natural Park. Exceptional examples include the archeological site of Sandoqueira and Raposeira (Mesolithic); the 16th century Fort of Pessegueiro and its associated Bronze Age and Roman sites, the 17th century Fort of Vila Nova de Milfontes, the 16th century of Fort Cape St. Vincent and Arch site of Castolejo (Mesolithic and Neolithic)





# great geological and floristic value

## GEOMORPHOLOGY

The Natural Park is divided in western sector with large outcrops of schist, quartz and grauwauques created at the end of the Paleozoic period (with around 300 million years) found between Sines and Vila do Bispo. Between the Cape St Vincent and Burgau the rock outcrops mainly consists of calcium carbonate from the Mesozoic period (65—220 million years old).

In the area behind the coastal cliffs all along the Natural Park coast, there is a large amount of weathering caused by the seas abrasive action when the whole area was submerged at the end of the Cenozoic period (2 million years ago). On this platform, seen all over the western coast, the emergence of stable dunescape (eolic sands of carbonated cement) are witness a past eolic activity, and give a view of the inside of a present fossilized dune.

This formation stands on few consolidated orange sands in colour (from the end of the Cenozoic and the beginning of the Quaternary period) as well as directly on Paleozoic rocks which are darker in colour and has faulted and folded strata. At present, it spreads over stable dunescape line is rocky, seldom cut by small coves that normally have deep bays, except where the principal coastal dune systems are connected to the River Mira and the Seixe, Aljezur and Bordeira streams.



Carrapateira

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Cabo Sardão

## FLORA

In the Natural Park the Mediterranean flora is spread over an extensive and varied landscape. The Atlantic flora also appears, although only in small areas, and shows evidence of past climates.

The world-wide distribution of some sorts of flora species is confined to the Portuguese southwest.



Biscutella vicentina

Plants like *Biscutella vicentina*, *Diplotaxis vicentina* and *Hyacinthoides vicentina* are specific names which show, without doubt, its geographic distribution near Sagres and Cape St. Vincent.



Silene Rothmaleri

Even more rare are the *Silene rothmari* and *Plantago almogravensis*, considered extinguished and rediscovered in the 90's.

To save this species, and at the same time others considered extinct (as it happened to the extinguished *Americia arcuata*) is the purpose of this Natural Park.



Plantago almogravensis



Falcão

## FAUNA

The Southwest coast is the breeding site for the last pairs of osprey (*Pandion haliaeetus*) and the only place where storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) nest on the coastal cliffs. Besides these species, other typical cliff



whitestorks  
Ciconia ciconia



Peregrine  
Falco peregrinus

birds that nest all along the coastline are including the peregrine, the kestrel and the cought.

You can also see the purple heron, the coot and the Great reed warbler

Throughout the length of this coastline, there is a healthy population of otters hunting into the marine habitat



Otters  
Lutra Lutra

Concerning the birds, Natural Park is a privileged place for its observation. From Spring to Autumn there are important migratory passages of many varieties of birds in Sagres-Cape St. Vincent area, which has been designated as a Biogenetic Reserve by the Council of Europe.