PARQUE NACIONAL DE GARAJONAY

World Heritage Site.

Gomera- Islas Canarias.

SPAIN.

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A group of seven Islands:

- Born from the volcanoes.
- Situated at the edge of the largest desert of the world.

... or the biggest oven!!

BUT...
TRADE WINDS MAKE IT HAPPEN.

The air conditioning system of the Canaries.
On an island like La Gomera, trade winds can create sceneries like this...
Favouring the existence of lush forests like...

the laurisilva of the Garajonay National Park

A RELICT OF ANCIENT TIMES
How large is this island?
Germany 357,376 km²

Gomera 370 km²

966 times larger than Gomera
Islands are laboratories of evolution.
264 gomeran endemic species.
25% of the terrestrial species of the island.

including one of the most endangered lizards of the planet
.....a mosaic of landscapes and ecosystems in 370 km², half of the hamburg surface.
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Different ecosystems in 4,000 hectares of the National Park area.
A variety of settlements....
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A heritage which is the result of human adaptation to the environment.
... singular ways of communication:

El silbo gomero, the whistling language.
A sustainable way to extract the sap from the palm tree.
...a world heritage site crowning the summits of the island: the Garajonay National Park.
INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...
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Approaching the park values to the visitors.
Forest fires are the greatest threat to the conservation of Garajonay National Park.

In 1964, Garajonay suffered one of the most tragic forest fires in the Canary Islands. Twenty people lost their lives in this tragic event, which was caused by a wildfire raging over the island. This disaster occurred as a result of the rugged and violent terrain of the region, with narrow, steep canyons and dense forests. In response to this national tragedy, the national park was established to protect the remaining flora and fauna. The park is now managed by expert ecologists, with clear guidelines for fire prevention and management. The park's management plans include regular fire simulations and training exercises to ensure the protection of the area.

A stairway to take you from arid lands to moisture (Where the mists don’t go, neither does the forest)

Since you can see the altitude of the change of climate on the island, you will find different flora and vegetation. As you climb the stairs, you will easily find a change in temperature and a feeling of dampness. This is because we are in a place that allows us to see, feel, and understand the importance of the climate for the vegetation of the park. The stairway is made of natural stone, and the steps are wide enough to allow for any changes in the vegetation. The stairway is made of natural stone, and the steps are wide enough to allow for any changes in the vegetation.

The preservation of the forest and its richness is a task of all.
INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...

FINDING NEW WAYS OF COMMUNICATION
INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...

a way to encourage new generations to preserve nature.
INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...

Approaching the park to the local people.
Finding new ways to approach Garajonay to people with special needs.
Giving formation to entrepreneurs and touristic guides of the art of interpreting the patrimony of the park.
La viña vertical. Cuando la montaña se convierte en vino

Producir vinos en La Gomera es una tarea de héroes. Una viticultura de montaña, vertical, hecha a mano, en armonía con una naturaleza exigente a la vez que generosa. Un paisaje único de terrazas imposibles que debemos salvaguardar.

Beber de manera responsable vino de La Gomera crea empleo en el medio rural y preserva un paisaje sublime que ayuda a proteger la isla y el monte de la erosión y los incendios. Los viñedos son magníficos cortafuegos.

Vertical vines. When mountains turn to wine

Producing wine on La Gomera is a heroic task. Mountainous, vertical viticulture, done by hand, in harmony with nature is both demanding and generous. It is a unique landscape of unbelievable terraces that must be protected.

Responsible consuming La Gomera’s wines creates employment in rural areas and preserves a sublime landscape that helps protect the island and the mountainside from erosion and fires. Grapevines are excellent firewalls.

Encouraging the consumption of local products, like wine to maintain cultivated areas avoiding wild fires.
New spaces for communication and compromise. 19 Public Institutions, 6 associations and 43 private entrepreneurs working together for the sustainability of the island.


... and of course new areas, where INTERPRETATION become a helpful tool.
SOME EXAMPLES.

- Each entrepreneur acquires skills to inform clients about the patrimony of the whole island as well as the National Park.
- Interpretative materials and trails are developed by the entrepreneurs in order to approach island patrimony to the visitor.
- Museums and exhibitions are created by private investors.
- Some investors are working out environmental educational programs.
SOME ACTIONS WILL BE DEVELOPED BY THE NATIONAL PARK, LIKE...

- Design of new path ways including interpretative materials, some in the area of the National Park and some in the surrounding areas.
- Exhibitions in visitor center will be renewed.
- Formation in the creation of eco-touristic products.
GARAJONAY NATIONAL PARK

Since 2008.
European Charter for Sustainable Tourism

MORE INFORMATION:

http://turismososteniblelagomera.com/

http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/parquesnacionalesdecanarias/es/Garajonay

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS! – THANK YOU VERY MUCH!