

VISITOR INFORMATION



**ADMINISTRACIÓN DE
PARQUES NACIONALES**



**PARQUE NACIONAL
TALAMPAYA**

Why was the Park created?

The Park was created on 11th June 1997 under National Law N° 24,846 with the general objective of natural and cultural diversity conservation, providing sustainable development of activities to each zone of conservation area.

Talampaya National Park (TNP) protects a sector of the Ischigualasto- Villa Union watershed that shares with neighboring Ischigualasto Provincial Park in San Juan, also known as Valle de la Luna. Towards the end of the year 2000, UNESCO added these two parks to their World Heritage list because of the most complete fossil record of vertebrate evolution during the Triassic period therein contained. Especially in Talampaya has been found a long series of fossils of the early dinosaurs (the most important being *Lagosuchus talampayensis* that lived here some 250 million years ago), and also turtles (*Palaeochersis talampayensis*, 210 million years). These discoveries have conferred international recognition on the area.

TNP is located in the west of province of La Rioja on the very border between the provinces of La Rioja and San Juan. It covers 215,000 hectares and it belongs to Monte eco-region. The name is the original name of the area and means "the dry river of the *tala*" (a tree of the *Celtis* genus).

It is contained on the west by the Los Colorados formation and on the east by the Sierra de los Tarjados, in which the Talampaya river, nearly always dry, has carved the impressive canyon. This is the stage for a Wide panorama of singular profiles and colors, deep gorges and the imposing Famatina massif jutting upward to the north. Water and wind have eroded the sandstone, creating whimsical figures that stand out against the sky to present us with a unique surrealist setting.

Particular Objectives

1. Protect paleontological deposits of the Triassic period, unique in the world.
2. Encourage research and survey of paleontological deposits of the Triassic period.
3. Protect and promote the research of important archaeological sites.
4. Protect an important area of the phytogeographic province of Monte.
5. Conserve biodiversity throughout (flora, fauna, soil).
6. Encourage the development of ecological research on the phytogeographic province of Monte.
7. Keep a space of great scenic interest around the World.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Who is responsible for the management?

The 215,000 hectares of Talampaya National Park belong to the domain and jurisdiction of the National Parks Administration, who is on his management, through the Administration, based in Villa Union city.

Administration of Talampaya National Park

E-mail: talampaya@apn.gov.ar - www.parquesnacionales.gov.ar

Address: San Martin S/N F5350AQA Villa Unión- La Rioja

Phone/fax 03825-470356

ACCESS

How do you access the Talampaya National Park area?

The TNP is crossed by the National road N° 76 that joins the cities of La Rioja West with Patquía city of the same province. This route is at the junction of the Baldecitos at its intersection with the 150 RN, South end of the TNP and continues up to the town of Villa Union, continuing towards the international pass Pircas Negras toward the neighboring country of Chile. The State of these routes is good.

At the height of the NR 76, 133.5 km is one of the service areas visitors, from where excursions depart to "Ciudad Perdida" and "Cañon Arco Iris". Both are vehicles employed on the site and with qualified guides who will accompany you along a path from 3 to 4 hours duration.

At kilometer 148 you will find with the entry into the "Cañon de Talampaya" service area, from that point excursions depart to the Canyon, you will also find services of restaurant, handicrafts and souvenirs, organized camping and offices for vehicle hiring, bicycle and trekking tours.

DISTANCES TO "CAÑÓN de TALAMPAYA" FROM:

Bus Terminal La Rioja: 220 Km

Bus Terminal Patquía: 150 Km

Bus Terminal Villa Unión: 59 Km

To arrive by bus, you can use the lines going from the Capital of La Rioja or Patquía towards Villa Union at different times: Arce Bus, Empresa Facundo or Empresa 20 de Mayo.

INFRASTRUCTURE

What infrastructure is there, for the attention of visitors?

CIUDAD PERDIDA: Tourist Information Office, bathroom, kiosk. Excursions.

CAÑÓN DE TALAMPAYA: Tourist Information Office, bathroom, restaurant, organized camping site. Sale of souvenirs and handicrafts. Vehicle excursions, trekking and cycling.

OPENING TIME

At what time there are excursions in the PNT?

Talampaya National Park is open 365 days a year.

Because of limitations on the hours of daylight, there are schedules for the visit to the different sites of the PNT, they are:

08:30am to 17:30pm – Ciudad Perdida / Cañón Arco Iris / Cañón de Talampaya

The Park is open 24 hours for service of camping (bathrooms, barbecues, picnic areas and parking).

Excursions services:

- Summer: from 8 am to 5 pm (4.30 pm last departure full Excursion and 17 pm last departure reduced Excursion).

- Winter: from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm (4 pm last departure full Excursion and 4.30 pm last departure reduced Excursion).

Restaurant open from 8am to 10pm

ACCESS CHARGE

Is there income to Talampaya National Park?

Yes, the costs per person are:

◆ General	Ars 250,00
◆ National Resident Tourism	Ars 120,00
◆ University Student	Ars 50,00
◆ Residents of the Province of La Rioja	Ars 50,00
◆ Between 6 and 16 years old inclusive	Ars 60,00
◆ Residents of Dpts. F. Varela and Independencia	Free of charge
◆ Retired	Free of charge
◆ Under 6 years old inclusive	Free of charge
◆ Law 22.431 Disabled person	Free of charge

With the payment of access you are entitled to a free excursion performed with vehicles of the concessionaire Rolling Travel to the area called "Puerta del Cañón de Talampaya" at 9 am and 4 pm.

TICKET ACCESS VALIDITY: 2 DAYS.

WATER

In every point of visitor service there is drinking water available. Not as well along the route or during the excursions.

ACTIVITIES

- Trekking/hiking/nighttime trekking - accompanied by qualified guides that charge for the service.
- Wildlife watching. Along the route of the excursions or national route.
- Flora watching.
- Excursions with vehicles hired in place.
- Excursions by bike or trekking, these can be contracted in the place.

WEATHER

It is characterized by an arid climate with sporadic rainfall in summer. Most of the days are clear sky, summer temperatures can exceed 40 ° C

PARK RANGER	<i>Are there sectionals Ranger in the PNT?</i>
<p>There are two Park Rangers sectionals:</p> <p>Rio Gualo, located at kilometer 134 of National Route 76, 500 m from the information office of Ciudad Perdida.</p> <p>La Portada: at km 153 RN 76, 5km north of the “Cañon de Talampaya” access.</p> <p>Centro Operativo Talampaya: at 147 km of RN 76, in the resort of attention of visitors at the entry to Cañon de Talampaya.</p>	
FAUNA	<i>Can I see fauna outside visit areas?</i>
<p>The observation of fauna such as ñandú petiso or suri, maras and guanacos is common among the 76 RN. Do not disturb animals that form will allow that other visitors can also observe them while away by human presence.</p>	
WARNING	<i>Can I enter to the circuits with the particular vehicle?</i>
<p>Not allowing entry of private vehicles to the circuits, without exception. The income requirement is in force with guides to all the circuits, without exception-enabled.</p>	
CAMPING PERMISSION	<i>Where can I manage the permission to camp in TNP?</i>
<p>Permission for camping is arranged in the restaurant of Cañon de Talampaya`s Services Area</p>	

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE DAY	<i>What elements are essential to visit TNP by the day?</i>
<p>Minimum elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comfortable clothes • Warm clothes (the temperature reaches -10 ° C minimum in winter and 15° C in summer) • Suitable shoes for trekking, with good traction • Sunscreen • Hat • Water bottle • Camera 	
CAMPING RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>What elements are essential for camping in the TNP?</i>
<p>Minimum elements for 48 hours camping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comfortable clothes and a change of. • Warm clothes (In Winter and summer) • Suitable shoes for trekking with good traction • Sunscreen • Hat – backpack • Good quality tent to withstand strong winds • Quick cooking • Flashlight • Good quality sleeping bag (reaches -10 ° C in winter) • Heater (remember it is forbidden to make fire) 	
RESTRICTIONS	<i>What are the most important restrictions in TNP?</i>

It is not allowed

- To set fire
- Camping in not enable places
- Leave residues
- **To enter with pets**
- Wash dishes or personal toilet in watercourses
- Remove any species of plants, animals and other elements of the area
- Conduct over flights in the jurisdiction of the National Park (C10 F.A.A. Norm)
- Circular or enter by trails and or footprints outside the paved national route N° 76

DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Are there any dangerous animals in the area?

In the area are present the Yarárá Ñata, Yarárá chica and Yarárá grande, also coral and cascabel serpent. Spiders and scorpions are common to see at nights.
Therefore, do not stay away from the areas of camping or for buildings, walk carefully noting the bushes near where we are. Follow the recommendations of the guidelines help to ensure your safety.
Keep tents closed specially during the night.

GUIDES

Is it obligatory to visit the area with guides?

Due to the fragility of the resources and environment to visited, it is obligatory to visit the area with guides and under the system of excursions in the place.
In Ciudad Perdida and Cañon de Talampaya offices you can hire vehicular, pedestrian or bicycle excursions, which include the enabled guide that will accompany him on the tour. To perform tasks of guide or provider of services in jurisdiction of the administration of national parks must be managed corresponding allotments to the quartermaster of the PNT.

Transport of regular service to Villa Unión:

Facundo

La Rioja to Villa Unión 07:00 am and 12:30 pm / Villa Unión to La Rioja 03:00 pm and 07:00 pm

Bus Terminal La Rioja - 0380-4427991- 0380-4491977

Arce

La Rioja to Villa Unión 01:15 pm / Villa Unión to La Rioja 09:00 pm

Bus Terminal La Rioja -0380-4425453

20 de Mayo

La Rioja to Villa Unión 07:00 pm / Villa Unión to La Rioja 04:00 am

Bus Terminal La Rioja -0380-4425453

Villa Union: 03825-15451262

El Zonda-Diferencial

Monday to Friday

La Rioja to Villa Unión 07:00 pm and 09:00 pm / Villa Unión to La Rioja 12:30 pm and 04:00 am

Villa Union (Patricia) 0380-154682589

La Rioja 0380-154682635

Ciudad de Chilecito

Villa Unión to Chilecito: Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday 03:00 pm Friday 04.30 pm / Chilecito to Villa Unión:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 01.30 pm

Chilecito – 03825-15527178

Mayo

Villa Unión to San Juan: daily 7:00 am

San Juan to Villa Unión: daily 8:00 pm

Espejo Family (Villa Union) 03825 470-142

Bs. As. / La Rioja

Companies: Chevalier, Urquiza, Socasa

Córdoba / La Rioja

Companies: Chevalier, Urquiza, Socasa, Sierras de Córdoba, Flecha Bus

EXCURSIONS Provided by Tourist Service Providers

Vehicle Excursion by “Cañón de Talampaya” circuit

Cañón de Talampaya

Rolling Travel

Duration: 2.30 Hs.

Reservation Center: 0351 -5709909 talampaya@rollingtravel.com

Cañón de Talampaya and Los Cajones

Rolling Travel

Duration: 4.30 hs. Reservation Center: 0351 -5709909 talampaya@rollingtravel.com

Cañón del Shimpa

Rolling Travel

Duration: 4.30 hs. Reservation Center: 0351 -5709909 talampaya@rollingtravel.com

Free Charge Excursion

Excursion “Naturaleza y Cultura de Talampaya”, included in access fee to the park.

Daily at 1:00 pm and 4:30 pm (winter time) and 5:00 pm (summer time), in vehicle and accompanied by a guide from Rolling Travel company.

Ask for it in the access charge area.

Vehicles Excursions by Ciudad Perdida and Cañon Arco Iris circuits.

Ciudad Perdida

Cooperativa de Transporte Talampaya

Duration: 4.30 hs.

Reservation Center: 03825 -15512367 cooperativatalampaya@hotmail.com

Runacay Servicios – Reservation: www.runacay.com – info@runacay.com TEL: (03825)-470368 – Cel: (0380) 454489686.

Cañón Arco iris

Cooperativa de Transporte Talampaya

Duration: 4.30 hs.

Reservation Center: 03825 - 15662086 cooperativatalampaya@hotmail.com

Excursions in Bicycle and hiking through Cañón de Talampaya and Quebrada Don Eduardo

Circuits to La Catedral and Quebrada Don Eduardo

Asociación de Guías- Reservation: www.talampayaecoturismo.com – Talampaya.acg@gmail.com – telefonos: (0380) 479000 – (0380) 154790000

Runacay Servicios – Reservation: www.runacay.com – info@runacay.com TEL: (03825)-470368 – Cel: (03825)-15456514

Night Excursions with Full Moon through Cañón de Talampaya

Jaime Páez: reservas@talampaya13lunas.com / www.talampaya13lunas.com

Runacay Servicios: www.runacay.com – info@runacay.com TEL: (03825)-470368 – Cel: (0380) 454489686

ACCOMMODATION

In the area near the park

There are several options in the neighboring towns and villages: Pagancillo, Villa Union, Guandacol, Aicuña, Banda Florida

For further information:

Municipal Tourism Office: Tel: 03825-470543 - 470270

Villa Unión web sites:

<http://www.municipiocfvarela.gov.ar/secciones/paseo/turismo.asp>

<http://turismovillaunion.gov.ar>