



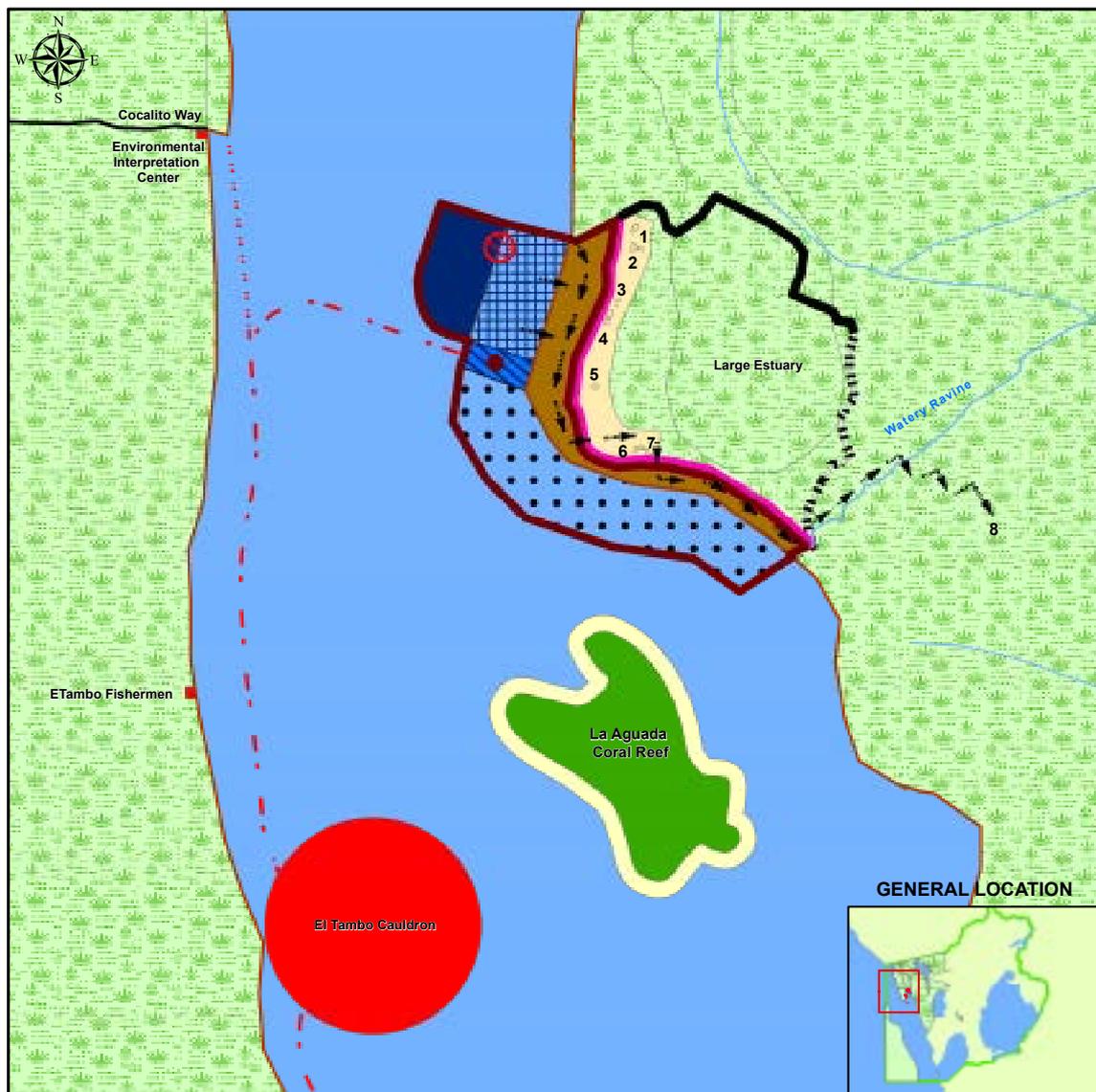
# WELCOME TO UTRÍA NATIONAL NATURAL PARK

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## PLAYA LA AGUADA



# DEMARCATON AND ZONING






**Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible**  
**Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia**  
**PACIFIC TERRITORIAL DIRECTORATE**

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT GROUP

**PLAYA LA AGUADA**  
**ZONING MAP**  
**UTRIA National Natural Park**  
**UTRIA**

Scale: 1:200 000  
 800 400 0 800 Km

**LEGEND**

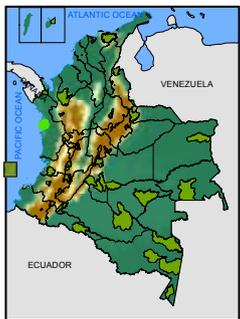
<span style="color: green;">■</span> La Aguada Coral Reef	<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Estero Grande Trail
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Active Zone	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">■</span> Estero Grande Trail Projection
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Tourism Services Zone	<span style="color: red;">—</span> Cocalito Path
<span style="border: 1px dashed black;">■</span> Conservation Zone	<span style="color: red;">—</span> Demarcation Zone
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Bathing and Subaquatic Activities Zone	<span style="color: red;">—</span> Connection Zone
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Boarding and Landing Zone	<span style="color: red;">—</span> Coast Line
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Risk Zone	<span style="color: red;">—</span> Boat Transit
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Hydrography	<span style="color: red;">—</span> Evacuation Route
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Sunken Ship	<span style="color: red;">—</span> Mooring Buoy
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Environmental Interpretation Center	<span style="color: red;">●</span> El Tambo Cauldron
<span style="color: red;">■</span> El Tambo Fishermen	

**PLACES OF INTEREST**

1. Jibara Cabin
2. Yurbarta Restaurant
3. Auditorium
4. Guayabillo Cabin
5. Dormition Cabin
6. Staff Quarters
7. Meeting Point
8. Safety Zone – Tsunami

NOTE: If you have any comments or observations regarding this product, please contact us at [psicof@parquesnacionales.gov.co](mailto:psicof@parquesnacionales.gov.co)  
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**GENERAL LOCATION**



INFORMATION SOURCES	REFERENCE INFORMATION
TOPIC: Protected Areas BASIC CARTOGRAPHY Scale 1:100 000 (SIAC, 2014) SPN LIMITS: Scale 1:100 000 Planning Area and SIG (Integrated Administration Systems) SPN 2015	COORDINATE SYSTEM: MAGNA-SIRGAS GEODETIC DATUM: MAGNA-SIRGAS ELLIPSOID: GRS80 PRIME MERIDIAN: Greenwich UNITS OF MEASUREMENT: Degrees
EDITION: Jose Martinez	REVISION: Orlando Medina APPROVAL: Juan Ivan Sanchez 2015

## DEMARICATION OF THE CERTIFIED AREA

The area demarcated as target of implementation of minimum quality and sustainability standards, named Playa La Aguada, is located in the general outer recreation zone and extends from the point of Estero Grande at  $6^{\circ} 01' 36.6''$  N and  $77^{\circ} 20' 88.0''$  W to La Aguada stream at  $6^{\circ} 00' 72.3''$  N and  $77^{\circ} 20' 66.5''$  W, for a distance of 1.25km, which has a width of 50 meters during low tide that can be safely used. To calculate the total area of use, the distance in the beach zone of 1.25km, a distance measured in the forest area (area of tourism services) of 1.26km and an approximate total area of 63.582m<sup>2</sup> were estimated.



*Panoramic view at the end of the beach. La Aguada Stream*



*Panoramic view at the beginning of the beach. Estero Grande*



## ZONING AND USE OF ACTIVITIES

For zoning and use of beach activities, the areas of sea access from land and vice versa were taken into account, for boats and for the visitors who require entrance to the different zones in order to carry out the activities permitted there (See Zoning Map).

The zones defined within the certified area are:

- a) Bathing and subaquatic activities zone
- b) Boarding and landing zone
- c) Conservation zone
- d) Active zone

There are two important zones outside the certified area that enable the coordination of visitors' services.

- a) Tourism services zone
- b) Connection and coordination zone

It must be noted that water motorsports are not allowed in the certified area since it has transit of aquatic mammals.

a) **Bathing and subaquatic activities zone:** This zone begins in Estero Grande from the high-tide line on the beach up to 50 m offshore where the sunken ship and the fish observation platform are located and before the coastal shelf, thus guaranteeing the safety of bathers.

This zone is for swimming, to enable bathers to stay in the seawater and to practice snorkeling and scuba diving. The zone ends in the high-tide line in front of the auditorium, and limits with the vessel-transiting zone.

*Fish observation  
platform in front of La  
Ensenada (La Aguada)  
beach*





b) **Boarding and landing zone:** Offshore parallel strip next to the conservation zone, demarcated by an imaginary line that traverses the inlet from the Guayabillo cabin to the zone where boats enter on the northeastern bank of the inlet and which is allocated for the circulation of vessels. It allows maritime traffic to enter and leave the inlet and between ecotourism facilities, the Environmental Interpretation Center and the beginning of the Valle Utría trail in La Chunga mangrove forest. It borders with the bathing zone on the east and the conservation zone on the west and in front of the continental area where the Guayabillo cabin is located. Only small vessels are allowed in this area and they must travel at a speed of 30kph (16 knots) through the western side (left bank facing the way in). Vessels must go directly to the anchorage site in front of Guayabillo cabin where the mooring buoy is located.

Large vessels can enter the inlet and La Aguada beach only with permission from Park authorities and only to carry out activities directly related to the protected area's purpose.

Bathing and subaquatic sports are not permitted in this area.

Only authorized vessels can enter La Chunga mangrove forest (at the end of the inlet) to bring or pick up visitors who arrive from the Valle Utría trail or the Park boats in fulfillment of control and surveillance functions.

Entrance to La Chunga mangrove forest area must be done on the west side (left bank facing the way in) at a speed of 30kph (16 knots).

c) **Conservation zone (Natural Recovery Zone):** Taking into account the potential for disruption of coral reef ecosystems, this area was designated as a natural recovery zone in order to ensure the biological conditions for resources associated with these ecosystems. For this reason, the area of La Aguada beach that has coral reefs is closed to bathers and to subaquatic activities. Only enjoyment of the landscape and whale watching is allowed from this beach.





*Active Zone – La Aguada Beach*

The rise of seawater temperatures -El Niño Phenomenon- and the proximity of coral reefs to the mainland have caused the gradual whitening of the coral reefs, which leads to death of the colonies of coral that are closest to the surface since it is a vulnerable and fragile ecosystem. This situation is worsened by discharge of oil residues by the motorboats that move through this area and this is why the zone extends in the east where the vessel transiting zone ends and to the west where the Riscal de la Aguada (coral reef) is located and close to the low tide line up to the mouth of La Aguada stream.

Transit of vessels carrying visitors is prohibited in this zone. It can only be used by staff of the Protected Area in fulfillment of the functions of the organization's mission.

The conservation zone is in front of the National Park cabin and the coral reef is demarcated by red buoys.

d) **Active zone:** It is the strip of sand closest to the beach shore, on land unconsolidated and inland. It is exclusively allocated to the circulation of bathers. The zone facilitates the comfortable immersion and longitudinal movement of bathers.

The zone borders on the east with the area where Estero Grande begins and to the point of the zone of land unconsolidated up to the mouth of La Aguada stream, and on the west it borders, in the southern part, with the connection and coordination zone. With regards to the resting zone, it does not apply to this beach since in general the tourism product of the Park is not sun and beach but ecotourism. In other words, visitors walk through the active zone, they bathe in the bathing zone, but they do not sunbathe because of the weather conditions of the Park.





*Tourism services zone. Jaibana Cabin*

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*Tourism services zone. Yubarta Restaurant*

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*Tourism services zone. Dormilón Cabin*

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The zones outside the certified area are described next:

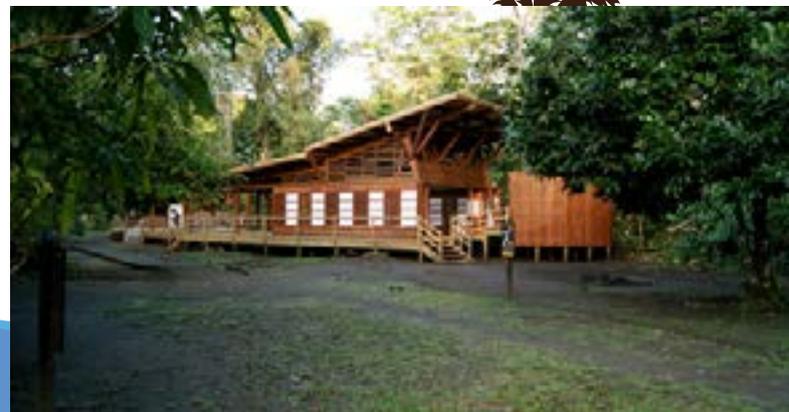
a) Tourism services zone: it is the parallel strip next to the services connection and coordination zone. It is located in the consolidated material zone, allocated to services and extends east from the point where the “Jaibaná Cabin” is located to the site of “Dormilón Cabin”.

This zone has the following facilities:

1. Jaibana Cabin
2. Yubarta Restaurant
3. Auditorium
4. Guayabillo Cabin
5. Dormilón Cabin
6. Staff Quarters and Offices

*Tourism services zone. Auditorium and day stay deck*

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b) Connection and coordination zone: Parallel strip next to the tourism services zone located between the latter and the active zone; it extends from the site where there is a change in the material to the start of the vegetation line.

It is specifically located in the zone before the Jaibaná cabin, the Yubarta restaurant and the bridge and it is made up of gardens and pedestrian movement areas. It also has a fresh water shower that is used by day-stay bathers since the cabins have freshwater showers at each entrance to wash feet.



*Connection zone. Path detail.*



*Connection zone. Bridge.*



*Connection zone. Gardens*





## UTRÍA NATIONAL NATURAL PARK – PARADISE ON EARTH FULL OF BEAUTY, PEACE AND CALM

*If offers great environmental diversity in this jungle next to the sea: Beaches, nature and tranquility describe this beautiful place protected by its people for its people*

## GENERAL FACTS

Height	0 - 1.400 MASL
Area	543 km <sup>2</sup> (marine and terrestrial)
Weather	Warm – Humid
Temperature	73°F – 86°F
Yeas Established	1987



The Park contains 5 of the most productive and fragile ecosystems in the planet:

- Coral reefs
- Mangrove Forests
- Tropical rainforest
- Sub Andean rainforest
- Marine coastal ecosystems



## TERRESTRIAL FAUNA

- Tamarins (*Saguinus* sp.)
- White-faced capuchin (*Cebus capuccinus*)
- Central American agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*)
- Common opossum (*Didelphy marsupialis*)
- Lowland paca (*Cuniculus paca*)
- Margay (*Leopardus wiedii*)
- Red brocket deer (*Mazama americana*)
- White-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*)
- Tayra (*Eira barbara*)
- Hoffmann's two-toed sloth (*Chloepus hoffmanni*)



## BIRDS

- Tricolor heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*)
- Baudó oropendola (*Psarocolius cassini*)
- Baudó guan (*Penelope ortonii*)
- Grey-headed chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*)
- Collared aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*)
- Stripe-billed aracari (*Pteroglossus sanguineus*)
- Red-rumped woodpecker (*Veniliornis kirkii*)
- Green-winged macaw (*Ara chloroptera*)
- Choco tinamou (*Crypturellus kerriae*)



There are also reptiles such as venomous and non-venomous snakes, many endemic species such as frogs from the *Dendrobates* genus. Among the 105 species of decapod crustaceans the cart driver crab (*Ocypode guadi-chaudii*) stands out.



## MARINE SPECIES

- Humpback whale (*Megaptera Novaengliae*)
- Sperm whale (*Physeter Macrocephalus*)
- Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*)
- Olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivácea*)
- Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
- Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbrícata*)



## FISH OF COMMERCIAL INTEREST

- Kis Kis (*Haemulon maculicuada*)
- Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
- Stone triggerfish (*Pseudobalises naufragium*)
- Yellow snapper (*Lutianus argentiventris*)
- Almaco jack (*Seriola rivoliana*)
- Orangeside triggerfish (*Sufflamen verres*)
- Colorado snapper (*Lutjanus colorado*)
- Pacific sierra (*Scomberomorus sierra*)



## FLORA

The Park has timber species such as the following:

- Choíba (*Dypterix oliefera*) is a representative tree from the department
- Níspero (*Ecclinusa* sp.)
- Abarco or Colombian mahogany (*Caryniana pyriformis*)
- Carbonero (*Licania* cf. *Excelsum*) used to build boats for coastal transportation
- Oquendo (*Nectandra* sp.)



## INTERNAL ROUTES

Currently, Utría National Natural Park has two interpretive land trails, a subaquatic one, two scuba diving sites and two beaches that are open to the public.

### LAND TRAILS

- El Valle-Utría: it is 9.46 kilometers long and low to medium difficulty, it takes about two hours.
- Cocalito: it is 990 meters long and medium difficulty, it takes about 50 minutes.
- Estero Grande: it is 1.1 kilometer long and low difficulty, it takes about 60 minutes by canoe and snorkeling can be done there during high tide.

Frogs, insects, birds, snakes, terrestrial mammals such as el ñeque, and otter can be observed during the trail hikes. You can also see ecosystems such as estuaries, mangrove forests, estuary beaches and the awesome tropical rainforest.

### SCUBA DIVING SITES

- 
- Punta Diego
- Punta Esperanza  
Morro Mico

You can observe coral reef formations and the fauna associated to this ecosystem such as snapper, bravo, tamborero, grouper and turtles, among many other species.

### BEACHES

- 
- Playa Cocalito
- Playa Blanca  
Playa La Aguada



## ACTIVITIES

- Hiking
- Fauna and flora observation
- Bird watching
- Whale watching
- Swimming
- Scuba diving and snorkeling
- Kayaking and canoeing
- Photography and Video
- Research and Environmental Education



## WHENEVER YOU VISIT US PLEASE REMEMBER

- 
- Respect the flora and fauna of the area.
  - Walk only through designated trails.
  - Do not litter; please deposit your waste in the designated wastebaskets.
  - For hygienic purposes and out of respect to other tourists, do not bring domestic animals to the beaches.
  - Pay attention to the warnings of the staff designated to the care of beach areas.
  - Do not make noise.
  - Observe and enjoy the natural cycles of the Park.
  - Propagate good environmental practices.

# MANUAL OF GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

Dear visitor:

For your safety and ours, and in order to preserve a pleasant and peaceful environment in Utría NNP, it is necessary and important for you to follow the subsequent recommendations.



## GOOD PRACTICES – WATER



Take shorter showers and turn off the water tap while soaping up and scrubbing



Turn off the water tap while brushing your teeth.



Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket or deposit diapers, toilet paper or sanitary napkins in it.



Use foot rinsing sites reasonably.



Use towels and sheets in your room at least two or three days

Plan de Tabair

## GOOD PRACTICES – ENERGY



Turn off computers when not using them.



If you have a camera, use long lasting rechargeable batteries or the camera's rechargeable battery



## GOOD PRACTICES – SOLID WASTE

Bring only what you need and use biodegradable containers and substances whenever possible



Reuse plastic water bottles



Respect the Park areas and trails; do not throw waste on the ground, save it and bring it back to the appropriate containers



Take your own plastic bags for the waste you generate and take it with you when you leave the Park.



It depends on us all to ensure sustainable environmental practices in  
PLAYA LA AGUADA





## DO NOT LITTER

- **Plastic bottle:** After glass, these cause the most problems to the environment since it takes about 100 to 1000 years for them to biodegrade. When exposed to the weather they lose tonicity, they get fragmented and dispersed. They last longer buried. Most are made of polyethylene terephthalate (PETE), a material difficult to degrade: microorganisms have no way to attack this material.

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- **Cigarette butts:** 1 to 2 years. A cigarette butt with a filter can take up to two years to disappear under the rays of the sun. The filter is made up of cellulose acetate and the bacteria on the ground, which are used to reducing organic material, cannot attack it easily. If it falls on the water degradation is faster but it causes more pollution.

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**“FOR THESE REASONS, PLEASE  
TAKE YOUR WASTE WITH YOU  
WHEN YOU LEAVE AND DEPOSIT  
IT IN DESIGNATED WASTEBASKETS”**

- **Can:** it takes nature 10 years to transform a can of beer or soda into iron oxide. It takes a lot of rain and humidity for the iron oxide to cover cans that are exposed to the weather.

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- **Sneakers and flip-flops:** 200 years. These are composed of leather, cloth, rubber and, in some cases, synthetic foam. This is why they have different periods of degradation. The first parts to disappear are the cloth and leather ones. Its inner parts cannot be degraded: they are only reduced.

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- **Glass bottle:** 4,000 years. All kinds of glass bottles are very resistant objects. Although it is fragile as it can break when it falls, for the ground's natural components, transforming it is a gigantic task. Composed of sand and sodium and calcium carbonates, it is 100% recyclable.



## INFORMATION REGARDING CURRENTS

The circulation of masses of superficial water on the Colombian Pacific ocean are part of an anticyclone system of currents in the Eastern Pacific that, in the south, are composed mainly of the Peru and Humboldt currents. The general hydrodynamic pattern of the area is dominated by an elliptic cyclonic whirlpool that develops in front of the Colombian coast known as the Panama cyclonic current, from which a component heading north and fed by a branch of the Peru current becomes the Colombian current.



## WAVES

Predominant waves in the area, as well as wind and tides, come from the SW. They are wave trains of broad period and low heights from the open sea, which increase in height and break with relative strength against the cliffs and beaches of the western side of Utría Peninsula and the middle and south coast of the Park, upon meeting the shallow bottoms.



## QUALITY OF THE MATERIAL THAT MAKES UP THE BEACH

- Ph= 7.2
- Salmonella= N.D
- Total Coliforms (MPN/g or ml per sample) = <1.8
- Fecal Coliforms (MPN/g or ml per sample) = <1.8

- Calcium (Ca) =11.75%
- Calcium Oxide (CaO) = 16.45%
- Magnesium (Mg) = 1.06%
- Magnesium Oxide (MgO) = 1.76%
- Potassium (K) = 0.03%
- Potassium Oxide (K<sub>2</sub>O) = 0.04%
- Sodium (Na) = 0.18%
- Sodium Oxide (Na<sub>2</sub>O) =0.24%
- Aluminum (Al) = 8.23%
- Aluminum Oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) = 15.55%
- Silicon (Si) = 15.08%
- Silicon Oxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>) = 32,27%
- Iron (Fe) = 22.43%
- Iron Oxide (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) = 32.07%
- Manganese (Mn) = 1530 (mg/kg)
- Manganese Oxide (MnO) = 1974 (mg/kg)
- Zinc (Zn) = 230 (mg/kg)
- Zinc Oxide (ZnO) = 285 (mg/kg)
- Copper (Cu) = 0.01 (mg/kg)
- Copper Oxide (CuO) = 0.01

## CALIDAD DE AGUA DE MAR

- pH = 6.9
- Salmonella spp = N.D
- Total Coliforms = 3.3E+00
- Fecal Coliforms = <0.18

**THE SEAWATER'S CONDITIONS  
DO NOT POSE ANY HEALTH RISK**





PLAYA LA AGUADA OPENING HOURS

**Sunday to Sunday**

**From 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for day stays**

**From 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for visitors staying in the Park overnight**

