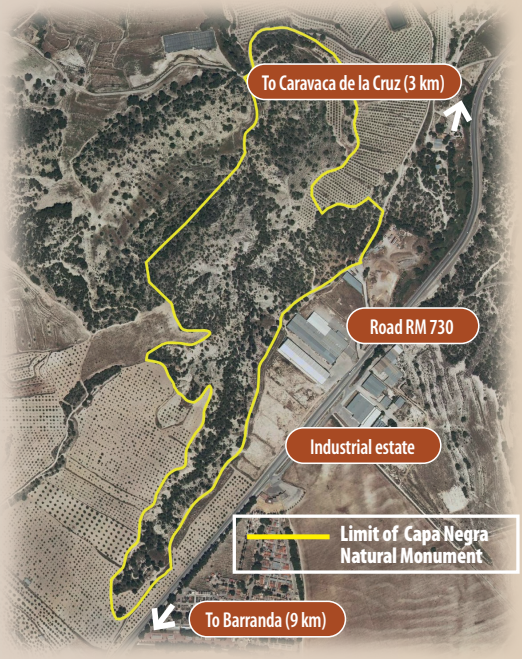
Región de Murcia

Monumento Natural
Capa Negra

Capa Negra Natural Monument of Caravaca de la Cruz is a protected natural space of great value that has allowed us to understand part of the history of life on our planet that we must preserve.



If you visit this place, remember:

- This place is difficult to access.
- The Black Layer is buried under the marls, so it is not easy to see it.
- At Nature Interpretation Centre of Fuentes del Marqués in Caravaca de la Cruz, you can see a sample core of the Black Layer exploration.
- Respect the rocks without altering or carrying them. They are a good for all people.
- Do not dig up the sediments in search of the Black Layer; you could irreversibly deteriorate this heritage.
- If you generate any type of waste, do not forget to take it with you.

MORE INFORMATION:
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THE TRACE OF THE METEORITE IMPACT THAT KILLED THE DINOSAURS

The story of an extraordinary event that took place 66 million years ago collected in a layer of sediments.

Capa Negra Natural Monument is located 3 km south of the city of **Caravaca,** in the **Barranco del Gredero,** a tributary of Argos River. It covers an area of almost 24 hectares.



Barranco del Gredero

There the land has a clayey strip, 10 cm thick and dark in colour, which contains different elements that have allowed us to demonstrate that **66 million years ago** a 10 km diameter meteorite hit the Earth.



Capa Negra of Caravaca

This event is famous because the dinosaurs became extinct, but it also caused the disappearance of a multitude of other groups of marine and terrestrial organisms. It is estimated that **75% of life perished after the impact,** so this event is known as the **Fifth Mass Extinction of Species.**

Other species such as angiosperm plants, fish, birds and mammals could evolve due to the disappearance of the world's largest predators. Without that impact, human beings most likely would not have existed.

During thousands of years, materials were falling on the Earth's surface and formed a thin blackish layer known as **Black Layer** (Capa Negra). This layer marks the transition of the Cretaceous and Paleogene periods, known as **the K-Pg boundary,** characterized by a mass extinction.

But... **what does this layer contain that allowed us to confirm the impact of a meteorite?:**

- **Iridium** in an abnormally high amount, a very rare metal on our planet but abundant in meteorites.
- **Microspheres** originated by high temperature and pressure. They are associated with meteorite impacts.
- **Quartz** deformed by the collision.
- Great concentration of **soot,** coming from the fires that took place and that gives it its dark colour.
- Abundant **fossils of ammonites,** marine molluscs extinct 66 million years ago, and **foraminifera,** microorganisms that were part of plankton.

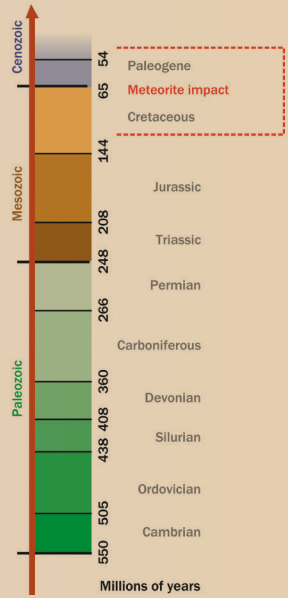
A layer of global relevance.

Capa Negra of Caravaca de la Cruz, discovered in the 1970s, at the same time as the discovery of a similar layer in Gubbio (Italy), allowed us to support the theory of a meteorite impact on Earth.



The reddish colour marks the boundary from the Cretaceous to the Paleogene (K-Pg). It contains evidence of the meteorite impact.

Together with the black layer of Agost (Alicante) and Zumaia (Guipúzcoa), they form the three most outstanding sections of K-Pg boundary in Spain.



What is a Natural Monument?

Spaces or elements of nature basically constituted by formations of remarkable uniqueness, rarity or beauty, which deserve to be the object of special protection.

Law 42/2007, of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.