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Mantiqueira Mountain Range Protected Areas Mosaic



Itatiaia National Park



The First National
Park of Brazil

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Ministry of the
Environment

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT

BRASIL

THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST BRAZILIAN PARK

Before The Park Was Established

Puris Indians lived in the Itatiaia region until the late 18th century.



Only from the early 19th century on, through the Mantiqueira mountains pass, the highlands of Itatiaia begins to be explored by naturalists, Brazilians and foreigners.

1878

Engineer André Rebouças visits the region and proposes the creation of natural protected areas.



1908

The Government acquires 48,000 hectares of Henrique Irineu de Souza's farms, son of Visconde de Maua. Part of this area is intended for implantation Colonial Centers for Europeans.



1937

President Getúlio Vargas creates the Itatiaia National Park with an area of 12,000 ha (29,652 acres)



1982

Park is expanded to 30,000 ha (74,131 acres)



1942

Starts the construction of the Head Office - today Visitor Center.



1996

The Museum of Flora and Fauna is now called the Visitor Center Prof. Wanderbilt Duarte de Barros.



1822

Naturalist Auguste Saint Hillaire



1814

Failure of the colonization project. Installation of the Itatiaia Forest Reserve in the lands of former Colonial Center, by Paulo Campos Porto.



Photo: Botanical Campos Porto

1950

Construction the mountain shelters: Massena, Rebouças and Lamego.



Massena Shelter.

2001

Implementation of PREVFOGO



1856

The engineer José Franklin Massena, is the first researcher to explore Planalto Itatiaia and to perform altitude measurements of Agulhas Negras peak.



1929

Establishment of the Itatiaia Biological Station, managed by the Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro, succeeding the Itatiaia Forest Reserve.



1872

Botanist Auguste Glaziou



Rebouças Shelter.

2007

70 years of the park: Revitalization of the Visitor Center.



Itatiaia National Park



Directions

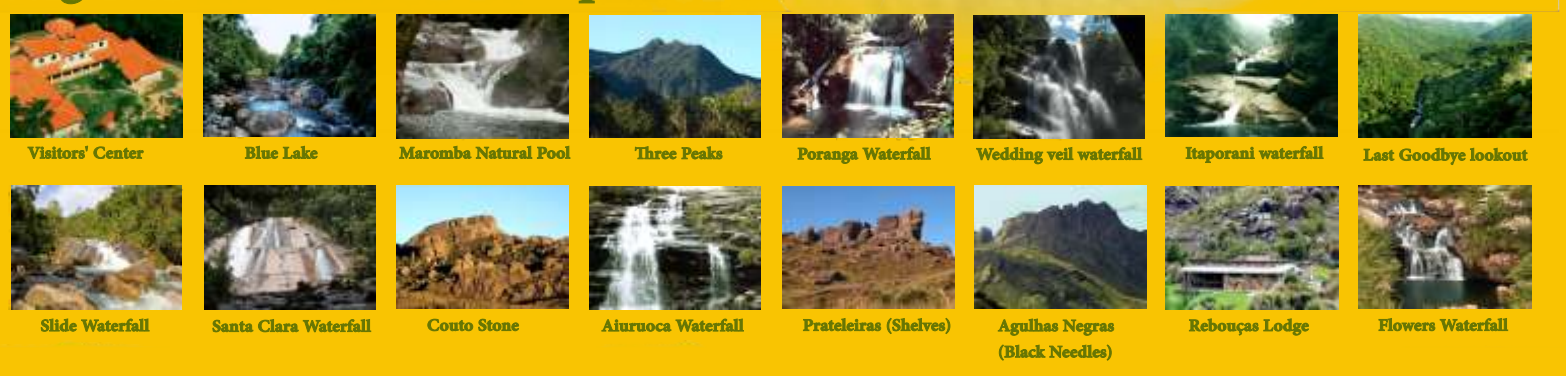
From Rio or São Paulo, the access to the Park is via Presidente Dutra highway (BR 116). In Itatiaia (exit 318) the access is via BR-485, further 5.5 km to the entrance of the Lower Part of the Park. For the Upper Part or "Highlands", the access is via "Engenheiro Passos" (exit 330A of the Dutra Highway). After 26 km (16 miles) on the BR-354 highway you reach the place called "Garganta do Registro", that is the access to the Upper Part of the Park. Further 14 km through a dirt road you reach the reception of the Upper Part of the Park ("Posto Marcão") - that is the access to the main attractions of the Highlands.

From Belo Horizonte, take the Fernão Dias highway and enter (BR-381), through Caxambú and follow the BR-354 route to "Garganta do Registro" to reach the Upper Part or take the Presidente Dutra highway to access the Lower Part of the Park.



- Legenda**
- Cachoeira
 - Pico
 - Posto
 - Abrigo
 - Centro de Visitantes
 - Pedra
 - Trilha
 - Mirante
 - Bairros ou Distritos
 - Divisa do Parque
 - Rodovia pista dupla
 - Estrada BR pista simples
 - Estrada BR de Terra
 - Estrada Asfalto Pista simples
 - Estrada de Terra

Alguns Atrativos do Parque



Trails, Nature Walks

Lower Part

Blue Lake

A nice walk starting in the Visitor Center. Goes next to the snack bar, down a staircase of 124 steps or the observer trail with 460m to the end of it a beautiful natural pool of the Campo Belo river.
Difficulty Level: Easy.



500m (546 yd) - 15min.

Maromba Site

Maromba Natural Pool 170 m (185 yd) from Maromba Bridge. Wedding Veil waterfall 380 m (415 yd) from Maromba Bridge. Itaporani Waterfall 640 m (700 yd) from Maromba Bridge.
Difficulty Level: Easy.



4km (2.49 miles)

Poranga Waterfall

The walk should start at the Visitor Center. First walk by 800 m by the access way to the site Maromba to the trail entrance. After then, another 400 m trail to the waterfall.
Difficulty Level: Easy. 1.200m



1.200m (1,312 yd) - 40min

Three Peaks Trail

At first the trail is light, then makes it harder and requires good physical condition. Get out early and take a visitors guide. You need a permit and sign a Term of Responsibility at the entrance or at the Visitor Center. Take food, warm clothing and flashlights.
Level of difficulty: difficult.



7km - 4h.

Upper Part - The Itatiaia Plateau

Asa de Hermes (Hermes' wing)

Rock formation curiously shaped between the Altar Stone and the peak Agulhas Negras. we recommend that contracts the services of a local guide. Moderate difficulty with final stretch of difficult climb.



3km (1.86 mi) - 2.5h / 3.5h

Flowers Waterfall

Right after the Reboouças Shelter, following along the way to the shelves, a trail to the left leads to this very cold water waterfall.
Difficulty Level: Easy



500m (546 yd) - 10min

Couto Peak

This hike allows privileged view of the Mantiqueira and the Paraíba Valley.
Difficulty: Moderate.



3km (1.86 mi) - 1.5h

Altar Stone

It is located halfway to the Aiuruoca waterfall. It provides great views of the "Agulhas Negras" (Black Needles). A guide is recommended.
Level of difficulty: Moderate.



3km (1.86 mi) - 2h

Agulhas Negras (Black Needles) Peak

You need to have safety equipment we recommend using the services of a local guide.
Level of difficulty: difficult.



2.5km (1.55 mi) - 2.5h

Prateleiras' Peak (Shelves)

To get to the base of the shelves, a moderate walking of 1.5 hours. For the ascent the peak, you must have safety equipment and recommend always be accompanied by a local guide.. Moderate difficulty to the base and final stretch of difficult climb.



2.5km (1.55 mi) - 2.5h

Aiuruoca Waterfall

Waterfall with a height of 20m (66 ft) and a large natural pool. Be prepared for weather changes and start early.
Long trail.
Level of difficulty: Moderate.



5.3km (3.29 mi) - 3.5h

Pedra Assentada (Seated Stone)

Rocky massif east of shelves, through the Apple stones and turtle. You must moderate hike to reach the base of the rock and climbing to access the summit. A conductor of visitors is recommended. Moderate difficulty level to the base and final stretch of difficult climb.



3km (1.86 mi) - 3.5h

Recommendations: Long walk, get off early, be accompanied by a licensed conductor of visitors and do not forget the basic safety equipment.

Crossing Fallen Ranch

Connects Rebouças Shelter to Visconde de Maua region, arriving in Escorrega Waterfall or Valley of Crosses. The night can be done in wild camping at a site called Fallen Ranch. It requires good physical condition and preferably a visitors guide. Must be scheduled and previously authorized by the Park Administration.
Level of difficulty: difficult.



27km (16.78 mi) - 2days

Agua Branca Shelter

Located on an extension of the crossing Ruy Braga to 1,700 m altitude. It offers a very nice hosting and privileged scenic beauty. Must be scheduled and previously authorized by the Park Administration.
Level of Difficulty: Difficult



4 hours of part low
7 hours of part high

Crossing Serra Negra

A long trail that connects the Rebouças Shelter to Maromba and Maringa villages passing by the Santa Clara waterfall. The night can be done in the Serra Negra. It requires good physical condition and we recommend that contracts the services of a local guide. Must be scheduled and previously authorized by the Park Administration.
Level of difficulty: difficult.



32km - 2 dias

Crossing Ruy Braga

Trail that connects the Upper Part and the Lower Part of the Park and can be performed in both directions. It is essential to be in good physical condition, and together with local guide. The tour must be previously scheduled and authorized by the Park Administration.
Heavy difficulty. 22 km (13.67 Mi) - 2 Days



22km (13.67 mi) - 2days

Attention To Climate Change

The Itatiaia National Park, with altitudes between 540 and 2791 meters, has very different climate in its two environments - Upper Part and Lower Part.

The Summer

Between December and March the temperatures are mild and there are loads of rain. On the Plateau, temperatures can drop abruptly but in the Lower Part are usually between 20 and 28 C. Both regions are subject to sudden rains, which can result in dangerous high water heads.

The Winter

The month of July is the coldest in Plateau, being ordinary temperatures below zero degrees with frequent frosts. In the Lower Part winter is dry, but not as much as in the Plateau, because of dense vegetation, with temperatures between 10 C and 25 C. The autumn and spring - are 6 months of mild temperatures without abrupt climate change.



Sudden weather change.



Frost on Agulhas Negras (Black Needles), very frequent in the winter time.



Snow in 1985.

What Is The “Cabeça D'água”

The “cabeça d'água” is a flash flood in the river beds, caused by heavy rain in the headwaters. Strong rapids drags all that lies ahead. You must get away from the rivers when you notice the appearance of large amounts of leaves, twigs or mud in the water or a water mass increase.

“Cabeças d'água” occur more frequently in the rainy season between December and March. When there is a threat of a flash flood occurrence some recreation areas are closed for safety reasons.



Flash flood in the river Campo Belo.

What is a National Park



Human behavior



National parks are full protection conservation units - areas that have the basic objective of preservation of natural ecosystems of great ecological significance and scenic beauty, enabling the conduct of scientific research and the development of educational activities and environmental interpretation, recreation in contact with nature and ecological tourism, regulated by a management plan.

In Brazil National Parks must be public areas and only the indirect use of natural attributes is allowed. Are vetted activities that generate environmental modifications as mineral exploration and agricultural activities.

Human interference is allowed only for structures related to the objectives of the park and recovery of its ecological systems.

The administration is performed by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMbio), a government agency under the Ministry of Environment.



Respecting nature.



Attention

In A National Park Is Not Allowed:

Light fires. Enter pets. Write in rocks, trees, poles, buildings and signs. Religious or political demonstrations.

Use soap or shampoo in the river baths. harvest fruits, flowers, plants or rocks. Feeding or capture wild animals.

To use stereos or produce any noise pollution. Throw trash the trails (take your trash out of the park).

RECOMMENDATIONS: In the lower part the areas most appropriate for carrying Picnics are on the tables of kiosks near Blue Lake, the tables in the cafeteria or on the lawn next to the Visitor Center parking lot. On the plateau you can use the table of camping Rebouças Shelter.

For the hikes, take water and food, like dried fruit, sandwiches, cereal bars and chocolate. Always drink water, but in small quantities. Be sure to bring water bottles, sunscreen, hat, warm cloth and flashlight with batteries.

Avoid walking alone and do not get off trail or open shortcuts.

For your safety, be accompanied by a guide certified by the Park.

Attention in the rainy season. Be informed about the possibility of flash floods, because the park closes the access to some waterfalls for safety reasons.

During the dry season wildfires are common. At the sight of any fire get out immediately and notify an employee of the Park.

PLASTIC takes over 100 years to degrade - PAPER takes 3 to 6 months to degrade - CLOTH takes 6 months to 1 year to degrade - Cigarette butts take 5 years to degrade - NYLON degradation takes 30 years - GLASS takes more than 1 million years to degrade.

Biodiversity - The Flora and Fauna of The Park



Graphystilis itatiaiae

The plateau region above 2,000 m altitude the Itatiaia National Park with approximately 50 km² and have been found 415 species of flora, 11% endemic



Agarista hispida



Paepalanthus itatiaiensis



Fernseea itatiaiae



Drosera montana



Língua de tucano
Eryngium glaziovianum



Amarilis - Hippeastrum morelianum



Actinocephalus polyanthus



Hydrocotyle sp.



Alophia sellowianna



Hindsia glabra



Buddleja speciosissima



Lupinus Gilbertianus



Macaco Prego - *Sapajus nigritus*



Quati - *Nasua nasua*



Tucano-de-bico-verde
Ramphastos dicolorus



Jacu - *Penelope obscura*



Sapo-flamenguinho
Melanophryniscus moreirae



Caxinguelê - *Guerlinguetus ingrami*



Saracura - *Aramides saracura*



Sal-andorinha - *Tersina viridis*



Muriqui - *Brachyteles sp.*



Pingo-de-ouro
Brachycephalus ephippium



Jararaca - *Bothrops jararaca*



Saíra-da-serra
Tangara desmaresti



Maria-leque-de-sudeste
Onychorhynchus swainsoni

Many endangered species are found in the park, including the Muriqui (largest primate in the Americas). The Itatiaia National Park is a paradise for bird watchers recognized internationally. Here have been seen more than 384 species

Itatiaia: Pointed Rocks In The Tupi Guarani Language

The Itatiaia massif reveals deeper layers of an ancient volcano. This erosion of millions of years continues today and can be seen in the grooves that form the Agulhas Negras (Black Needles).



The unusual shapes of the Itatiaia rocks.

The mountains of Itatiaia, an icon for Brazilian and foreign climbers.



PEAKS, ROPES AND CLOUDS

Mountaineering is the main activity in the Upper Part of the Itatiaia National Park. Since the nineteenth century, climbers roam the ridges, valleys, chimneys, edges and ridges of the massif. The main legacy of this essentially exploratory phase are the climbing routes and trails, in which tourists and mountaineers repeat the footsteps of pioneers with the same feeling of fullness and discovery. Although each rise is a personal discovery, an internal challenge, risks can be minimized with proper use of technical equipment. However, each climbing route or track has a different degree of technical skills needed. Inquire about the equipment required to your route, so that your adventure be enjoyed in a safe and healthy condition.