

## GOOD PRACTICE



- Please leave rubbish in the bins provided
- Walk on the marked paths
- Please respect private property



- The capture of animals is not permitted
- Starting fires is strictly forbidden
- Fishing is prohibited
- Plant collecting is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112



CÁDIZ-HUELVA  
SEVILLA  
DOÑANA  
PARQUE NACIONAL  
PARQUE NATURAL

## MORE INFORMATION

Palacio del Acebrón Visitors' Centre. Finca La Rocina.  
Carretera A-483 El Rocío-Matalascañas.  
El Rocío, Almonte. Huelva. Tel. 671 59 31 38.  
ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



Junta de Andalucía  
Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería,  
Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible

DOÑANA  
PARQUE NACIONAL  
PARQUE NATURAL



Trail  
Charco del Acebrón



Junta de Andalucía  
Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería,  
Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible

## OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



### • ROUTE

Circular

### • LENGTH

2,1 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME

1 hour

### • DIFFICULTY

Low

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Compacted sand and wooden walkway in some sections.

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Pine and riparian forest. Holm oak, shrubs and marsh vegetation.

### • SHADE

Many

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required Fee access on the Palacio del Acebrón Visitors' Centre opening hours.

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Huelva / Almonte

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1017 ; Matalascañas Norte

### • START / END COORDINATES

36° 8' 42,03"N – 6° 32' 54,56"O



## HOW TO GET THERE

From road A-483, take the exit to La Rocina and El Acebrón. Once the La Rocina Visitors' Centre has been left behind, continue along the H-9023 for seven kilometres until reaching the Palacio del Acebrón Car Park.



## PARKING

On the Palacio del Acebrón.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

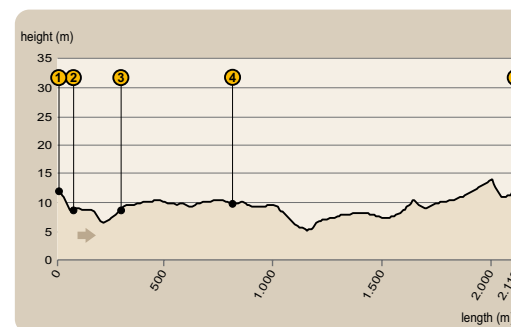
Regular buses in the area are mainly operated by the company Damas SA (tel. 959 256900). The nearest train station is Huelva. Check services and timetables at [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) or tel. 912 320 320).



## OTHER TRAILS

Several trails allow to get to know the Doñana Natural Area, including the Charco de la Boca and the Sendero del Acebuche trails.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

9 m

### • MAXIMUM HEIGHT

14 m

### • MINIMUM HEIGHT

5 m

## PALACIO DEL ACEBRÓN

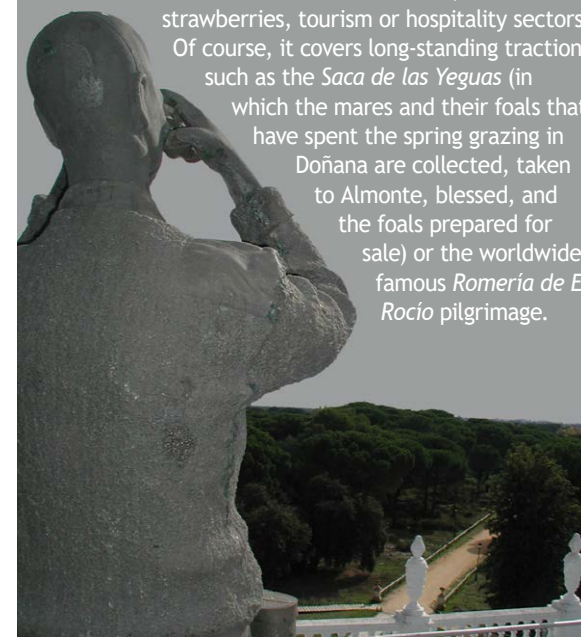
The Palacio del Acebrón Visitors' Centre is an old manor built in the second half of the 20th century, commissioned by Luis Espinosa Fontdevilla as his private residence. Subsequently it has been used to study and disseminate the ethnographic heritage of the Doñana National Park.

This space houses the exhibitions *Doñana y el hombre*, which offers you the possibility of getting to know different aspects and specificities of the relationship of the locals with their natural environment.



This exhibition covers aspects such as their dwellings and cottages, built using vegetable elements from the immediate environment, and the hierarchical organization within families; traditional activities carried out to survive harsh life on the marshes, such as hunting, fishing and livestock farming, are explained in depth.

The exhibition also explains the evolution of the marshes towards its current uses, such as strawberries, tourism or hospitality sectors. Of course, it covers long-standing traditions such as the *Saca de las Yeguas* (in which the mares and their foals that have spent the spring grazing in Doñana are collected, taken to Almonte, blessed, and the foals prepared for sale) or the worldwide famous *Romería de El Rocío* pilgrimage.







## Trail Charco del Acebrón

### Water and shadow

The trail starts very close to the Palacio del Acebrón Visitors' Centre (see [1] on the map). At its very start, the trail turns left and enters the riparian forest, an extraordinary forest formation which, in more humid ages, formed extensive, dense forest, in which vines and lianas were intertwined in tree branches, and where today true botanical relics still survive.

In the spring and summer, you can see the forest in all its glory. The forest blooms between December and April, and the new leaves form green canopy under which a cool shadow welcomes you.



*Ash trees, today practically disappeared, was traditionally considered as an ornamental tree, highly appreciated in woodcraft and used as feed for livestock due to its medicinal properties (diuretic, antirheumatic, laxative, antipyretic, and tonic properties) “ (...) are a powerful remedy against the venom of the wicked snakes, and so much that in its shadow no poisonous animal lives (...)”* Discorides, Greek botanist of the 1st century AD, on the properties of ash trees, as per the 16th-century Spanish version by Andrés Laguna.

As the trail proceeds by the first wooden walkway, the water is lined by large specimens of ash trees [2]. They grow on dark soils that are rarely flooded by area always cool.



On the next section willows occupy almost the entire water course. In this area, willows are called zaos and sanguinos, the latter referring to an endemic species in western Andalusia and a vestige of the Tertiary vegetation that still survives in these humid and cool areas. Intertwined with willows you may see climbing species such as honeysuckle, wild vines, or common smilax form a dense mass that shelters a large number of small trees.



### Sun and sand

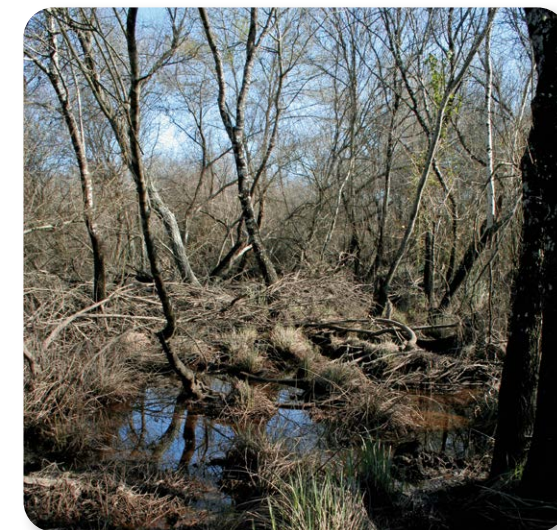
The trail leaves the wooden walkway [3] behind and enters a patch of stone pine trees. A dryer, elevated domain that, decades ago, used to be occupied by eucalyptus plantations. Today, after removing exotic species, native vegetation has been restored, including diverse woody species such as common hawthorn, rosemary, mastic, *Halimium halimifolium*, Gallipoli rose, aulaga or flax-leaved daphne form the pine wood's undergrowth and keep on colonizing the territory.

The trail enters again a riparian forest in order to avoid the stream. Before leaving this second walkway behind, you can observe interesting species of fern, such as royal



fern, growing under the willows. After this forest, the cork oak woods start.

Large trees over a hundred-year-old extend their branches over a cool, shadowed space. Mingled among the cork oaks, you may spot extraordinary specimens of strawberry trees and other noble scrub species such as mock privet and myrtle. Under the tree, a dense undergrowth of eagle fern contributes to the lushness and the coolness of the area.



Here, soils are dark and rich and accumulate abundant organic matter. In these more guarded and humid areas, bogs can be formed. Bogs are valuable and extremely fragile biotopes which are home to very rare plant communities, such as *Erica ciliaris* heath, dwarf fruze and other herbaceous species that grow in humid environments.

Along the last section of the trail, several tributary streams are lined with *Carex demissa*, cattail and saw-sedge. White poplars line the trail to its end, at the same spot in which it starts [2].





El Sotillo

Cañadilla

Arroyo

Arroyo

Arroyo

Arroyo

Arroyo

Arroyo

Arroyo

Arroyo

Arroyo

Arroyo

Arroyo

Arroyo

Centro de visitantes  
Palacio del Acebrón

Charco del Acebrón

PARQUE NACIONAL  
DE DOÑANA

El Mesto

Cabrera

Racina

Casa






Los Portales

0 100 200 m



# Charco del Acebrón

- 1** Landmark (see text)
-  Visitor's Centre
-  Parking
-  Walkway

-  Charco del Acebrón Trail
-  Livestock Track
-  Boundaries of the National Park
-  Road
-  Path