

## GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked paths



Please avoid making noise



Pets must be kept on a leash and their droppings collected



Capturing animals is not allowed



Starting fires is forbidden



Plant collecting is not permitted

**Emergency phone:**  
112

CÁDIZ-HUELVA  
SEVILLA  
DOÑANA  
PARQUE NACIONAL  
PARQUE NATURAL

## MORE INFORMATION

El Acebuche Visitor's Centre. Ctra. de El Rocio a Matalascañas km 12. Matalascañas. Almonte. Huelva. Tel. 959 43 96 29.  
La Rocina Visitors' Centre. Finca La Rocina. Ctra. A-483 Km.27,5. El Rocio. Almonte. Huelva. Tel. 600 14 46 25.

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Modelo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

DOÑANA  
PARQUE NACIONAL  
PARQUE NATURAL



Trail  
Arboreto de El Villar



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

## OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



### • ROUTE

Circular

### • LENGTH

6 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME

2 hours

### • DIFFICULTY

Low. Trail accessible for persons with reduced mobility

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Path, trail and sand

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Plantations of diverse species of eucalyptus.  
Mediterranean forest and riverbank forest.

### • SHADE

Frequent

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Huelva / Bonares

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1.000

### • START / END COORDINATES

37° 13' 40" N, 6° 40' 47" W



## HOW TO GET THERE

Once you reach Bonares, take the exit towards San Juan del Puerto along the A-5001 to the intersection with the A-486. Turn towards Rociana del Condado and after a few metres take the asphalt track to the right in the direction of Mazagón (the old Camino de los Playeros). After some 8.5 km, turn right and the access gate to the carpark is on the right. You can leave your vehicle here and start the route on foot.



## PARKING

There is a parking area at the beginning of the trail.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

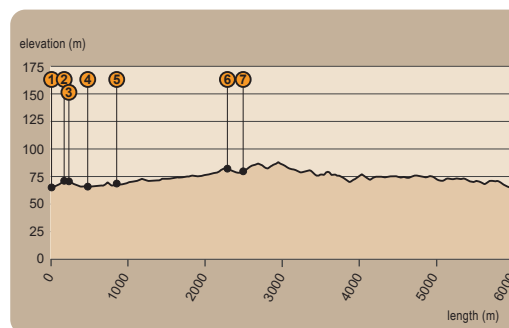
It is not possible to access the trail by public transport. The principal company running regular local bus routes in the area is DAMAS SA (959 256 900; www.damas-sa.es), passing through Bonares.



## OTHER TRAILS

Other nearby marked trails include the Ribetehilo, Charco del Acebrón, Charco de la Boca, Cuesta Maneli and Laguna del Jaral trails.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

23 m

### • MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

88 m

### • MINIMUM ALTITUDE

65 m

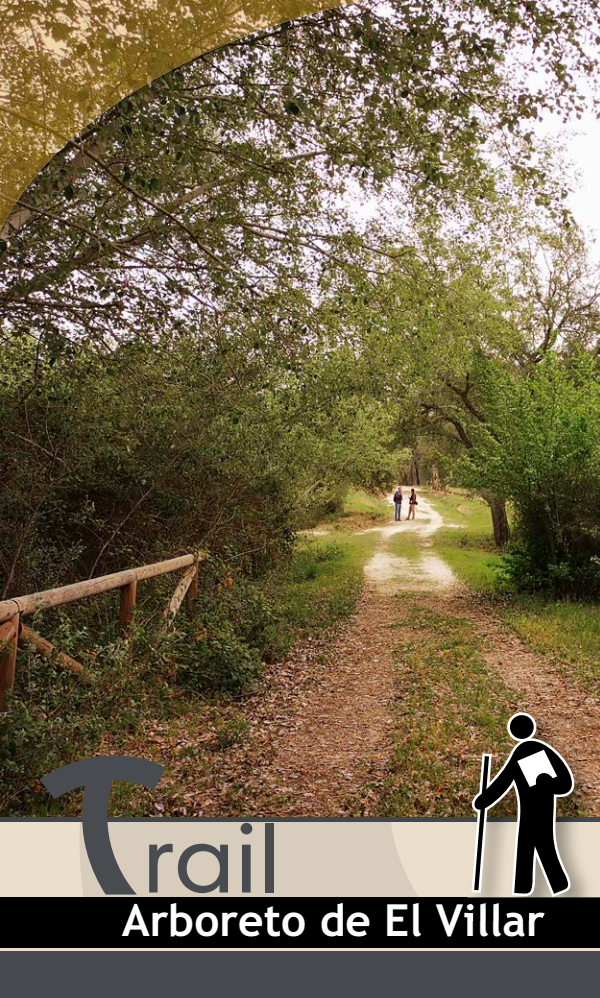


## THE MANY FACETS OF THE EUCALYPTUS

The sensory spectacle offered by the diversity of species on the Arboreto de El Villar trail reveals the many uses of the eucalyptus tree, the ornamental, to the visitor, whether it's the colour of the flowers, tree trunks and resin; the size, fragrance and textures.

The principal vocation of this arboretum is the experimentation and research of the use of these rapid-growth trees. Every part of the eucalyptus can be used; the leaves, fruit, bark, flowers and trunk. It also served to build beams for bridges, musical instruments and furniture as well as cosmetics, honey, medicinal remedies and paper pulp.

But the eucalyptus also concealed other, less beneficial features. As may be expected with the widespread introduction of an alien species, where there are plantations of eucalyptus, local autochthonous ecosystems suffer. The rollout of an entire arsenal of adaptive strategies, which is one of the most fascinating features of the eucalyptus, also makes the eucalyptus a problematic, bullying tree, harmful outside its native ecosystem. For this reason, it is classified as an exotic invasive species under current regulation.



## A tree with its good and bad

The panel at the start of the trail [1] is located in a picnic area at the entrance to the arboretum. From the very first moment you will be met with the fragrance and imposing canopy of the eucalyptus. Visible from the recreational area is a kiosk built from materials from the natural environment and several information panels [2]. They tell how it was Spain's international isolation, as a result of Franco's dictatorship, that created the need for raw materials for supplies. Nurseries and arboretums like that of El Villar, were essential for the repopulation of forests and the production of resources to mitigate hunger and poverty. What was once a laboratory is now a museum of significant historic, cultural and aesthetic value. The specimens on display here are individually significant due to their origin and beauty, but the massive plantations planted across the country proved very damaging to our landscapes and ecosystems.

Leaving the kiosk behind, our route runs along a plot of imposing specimens that may be familiar to us. It's the *eucalyptus camaldulensis* or river red gum [3]. This is one of the most common eucalyptus trees across the world and it's likely you have had a more intimate relationship with it than you realise. Its trunk, light and slim, exudes a sort of red gum that is exploited for medicinal use. Strong, hard resistant wood that is used in beams, posts and railway sleepers is also extracted. It also produces



excellent quality carbon, and its fibre is used to produce newspapers, handkerchiefs and toilet roll.

## The Arroyo Villar

After just a few metres, the trail joins the main path which runs through this section in parallel with the banks of the Arroyo Villar stream. The Arroyo Villar is a seasonal stream that feeds the Rocina stream and also performs an essential function in the ecosystems in the Doñana Natural Area. While there is no current of water for most of the year, it maintains the humidity of the soil, allow for the presence of riverbank species like poplars, willows and ash trees and aquatic plants like reeds and bulrush.

One of the first plots we find upon exiting the main path is one of blue eucalyptus: *E. globulus* [4]. Along with the river red gum, it's the most common eucalyptus species in Spain. In 250 metres, the trails cross the Fraile stream [5], a tributary of the Villar. Discreet signposts indicate the loops you can see in the itinerary.

On the left-hand side, the landscape opens up. The *Eucalyptus punctata*, one of the species preferred by koala bears, is interspersed among the pines, poplars and Mediterranean undergrowth. Great tits, blue tits and chaffinch interlace their melody with the drumming of the woodpecker and the murmur of the ocean breeze in the branches.

## A spectacle for the senses

Around the half-way point we reach a wooded area of straight, white imposing trees. Smell the leaves! It's the *eucalyptus citriodora* [6]. We briefly pass over the Palomera stream. Here we can clearly see the riverbank



forest [7]. Alongside a wooden walkway we find reeds, poplars, alders, hawthorns and brambles.

Attracted by the abundance of small fruit and insects, warblers, bee-eaters, robins and nightingales offer us their refined melodies. The mongoose and the badger can also be frequently spotted, along with other water species such as the common frog, the natterjack toad and the water snake. In the immediate surroundings the semi-bare trunks of some cork oaks, accompanied by palmetto, myrtle and mastic etc.; the Mediterranean mountain ecosystem predominated in many areas of Doñana (in the area known as Abalarío) before repopulation.



Through small paths that veer off from and return to the principal path, the trail continues between the plots, taking in each and every one of the species of the arboretum until the circuit is completed back at the picnic area. Feel the softness of human skin on the texture of the trunk or that of sandpaper on the bark, immerse yourself in the fragrance of lemon and mint of the overhanging trees and observe the almost volcanic flow of the resin in the brutal twilight colours, the blood or obsidian; it's something unexplainable. We invite you to experience it.

The Arboreto de El Villar is a spectacular collection of 50 different species of eucalyptus spread across 75 hectares and with plenty to tell. It was created in 1955 with the aim of researching, experimenting with and acclimatising our land to this exotic Australian species of the Myrtaceous family.

The trail runs through around 80 plots, criss-crossed by various streams, while also passing through natural Andalusian ecosystems, such as Mediterranean mountain or riverside forest. You can choose discovering the hidden nooks and crannies or sticking to the main path. In all cases, the sensory and cognitive experience on the walk is guaranteed.

# Trail

## Arboreto de El Villar

