

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

El Acebuche Visitor's Centre.
Carretera de El Rocio a Matalascañas km 12.
El Rocio. Almonte. Huelva. Tel. 959 43 96 29.
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
Laguna del Jaral



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



NATURA 2000



Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura



Red Española de Reservas de la Biosfera



Ramsar

• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

5,2 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

2 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Sandy

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Abalario Flats and El Jaral Lagoon Pine woods. El Asperillo dune and cliffs, vegetation adapted to sandy soils. Traces of mammals and reptiles, bird watching.

• SHADE

Scarce

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• 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

6° 37' 20,23" O – 37° 3' 7,07" N



HOW TO GET THERE

From Matalascañas, take the A-494 north-east to Mazagón. After approximately 7 km, the trail branches off to the left of the road.



PARKING

There is a car park with capacity for 15 vehicles.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

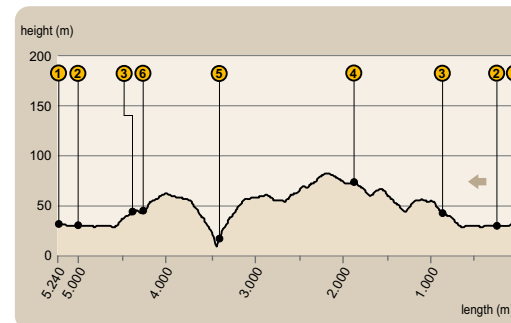
Regular buses in the area are mainly operated by the company Damas SA (tel. 959 256900). The nearest train station is Huelva. Check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 912 320 320).



OTHER TRAILS

The El Asperillo dunes are crossed by the Cuesta Maneli Trail and the El Sabinar, Las Dunas and Pasarela Diagonal run inside the Dunar Park. The same road leads to the access path of the Ribetehilo trail.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

75 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

83 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

8 m

HIDING WILDLIFE

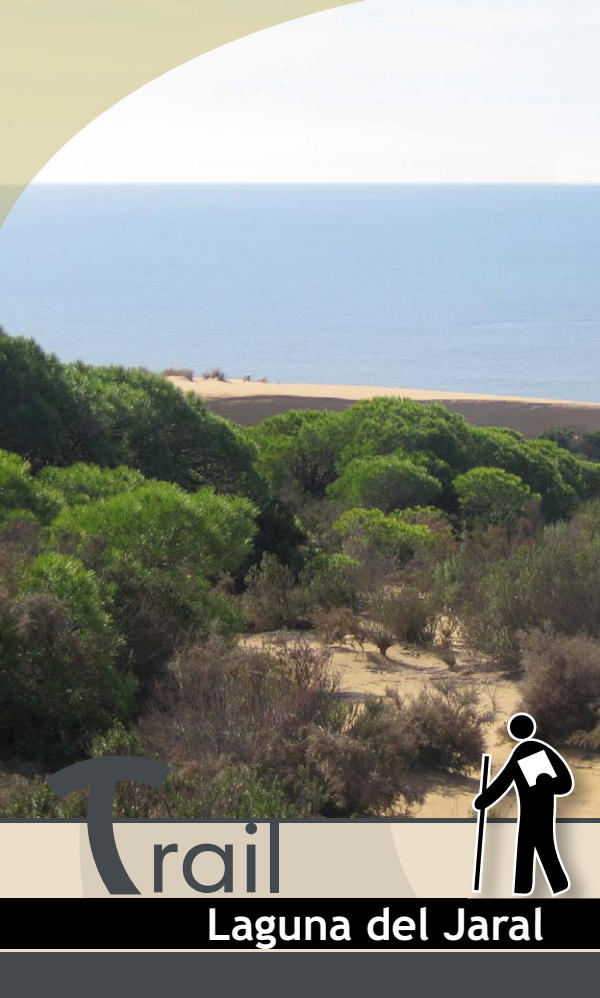
The dense woods and scrubland are a safe shelter for a wide range of animals that live or visit the flats and the dunes. This is the only defence against arid soils, relentless winds and blazing sun.



This vegetation also offers something, albeit not much to eat: fruits and berries for herbivores and small prey for carnivores. In the ground you can see tracks of foxes, boars, rabbits, deer, and other mammals, or reptiles such as viperines, which leave an unmistakable undulating track. Others, such as wall lizards, Iberian magpies, typical warblers, European stonechats, will be easier to surprise.

Meanwhile, raptors who have made this area their hunting ground cross the sky, while, by the sea, dunins, gannets, common terns and seagulls feed on seafood.





Trail

Laguna del Jaral

A lagoon among the sands

Our route starts right within the dedicated car park just off the A-494 road (see [1] on the map). The trail progresses among the pine trees until arriving at a large cleaning; after a further 200 metres, it reaches the surprising El Jaral lagoon [2], which is usually dry and covered in reeds.



The lagoon is surrounded by plants which need a high degree of humidity in their roots. The water repellent clays in the underground keep rainwater and water filtered by the sand close to the surface.



To the west, an elongated hill formed by a dunar range protects the lagoon from the influence of marine winds and the saltwater and sand they carry.

The trail runs for about four hundred metres on the right bank of the lagoon. To the left stands a pine patch that was planted to halt the advance of sands and has become so dense that it is impossible to tread on it, which makes it an ideal shelter for wildlife.

A sea of waves and a sea of trees

About two thousand metres from the lagoon [3] you will turn right to begin climbing the wall by a sandy path lined by pines, that serve to consolidate the poor, unstable soil, and its fallen leaves turned to humus, which enrich the soil and retain humidity, and under whose treetops a scrubland has developed with species such as rosemary, honeysuckle and *Halimium halimifolium*.

Beyond its shadows, other plants survive perfectly adapted to these conditions. Sabina junipers, Portuguese crowberries and carnations, among others, were always here in the first place, much before the pine trees were planted.



Climbing the hill is hard, especially on hot days, but at the summit [4], almost ninety metres over the sea, the view of the endless ocean to the south and of the vast flat covered by a sea of pines to the north makes it worth the effort.

The pine woods are exposed to the south-eastern winds, that bend their trunks and ruffles their feathers, preventing them from growing as tall as in other areas and making them grow almost parallel to the ground.



The end of the land is the end of the way

The descent to the beach may be dangerous [5], so please walk with caution. Once on the beach you can admire the rugged, naked walls of the cliff, eroded by wind and waves, and showing the successive mineral strata that tell the geological story of the area.



The way back is shorter and goes back until the forking that you will find after about four hundred metres. To the left is the way that leads to the dune summit; to the right, is the way which you will follow to enjoy, after another four hundred metres, of the views over the wide Abalarío plan and the El Jaral lagoon [6], which you will reach after walking straight on for about a little over three hundred metres. Just a little over six hundred metres after, you will reach the car park and the end of the trail, after enjoying the Asperillo dune and cliffs, declared a Natural Monument of Andalusia due to its ecological and geological value. There are other trails that allow to visit the dune, three of them in the Dunar Park and the Cuesta Maneli trail which is accessed from the same road as this one.





Trail

Laguna del Jaral



1 Landmark (see text)

P Parking

Natural monument

Panoramic views

Interpretive panel

Viewpoint

- El Jaral Lagoon Trail
- Natural monument boundary
- National park boundary
- Road
- Path

OCEANO ATLÁNTICO

Monumento Natural
Acantilado del Asperillo

0 200 400 m