

GOOD PRACTICE



- Accessible Facility
- Walk on the marked paths
- Please avoid making noise
- Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



- The capture of animals is not permitted
- Starting fires is strictly forbidden
- Camping 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.
Ctra A-483 Km.38,7 Matalascañas-21760 (Almonte, Huelva). Tel. 959 439 629
CVAcebuche.pnDonana.cagpds@juntadeandalucia.es

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 Acebuche



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

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

Linear.

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

2,1 km.

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour.

• DIFFICULTY

Low - Trail accessible for persons with reduced mobility.

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Wooden walkway.

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Lagoon complexes. Scrubland on sandy soil: White scrubland dominated by rockrose, and black scrubland with presence of heath and brambles. Forests of pine, edgings of white poplar and marshland vegetation with undergrowth of with olive trees, savines and cork oak.

• SHADE

Scant, only on certain sections.

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required Free admission during the opening hours of El Acebuche Visitor Centre.

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry binoculars, drinking water, sunscreen and wear suitable clothing and footwear. For much of the year, it is also recommended to carry mosquito repellent.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Huelva / Almonte

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

N.º 1017

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 2' 49" N, 6° 33' 58" W

37° 3' 01" N, 6° 34' 08" W



HOW TO GET THERE

Take the A-483 towards Matalascañas and take the exit at km 37.8. From Matalascañas, take the exit at km 38.2. Continue along the asphalt track for approximately two kilometres to the El Acebuche Visitor Centre, where the trail starts.



PARKING

There is a carpark at the El Acebuche Visitor Centre. 100 spaces for cars and 16 spaces reserved for coaches. There are also places reserved for persons with reduced mobility.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

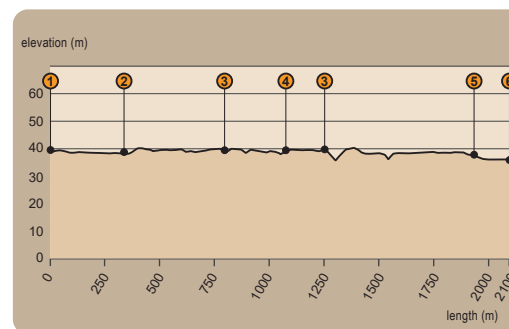
It is not possible to access the trail by public transport. The main bus company running regular lines in the area is DAMAS SA (959 256 900; www.damas-sa.es), with the closest stop in Matalascañas, some 5 kilometres away, where there is a taxi service. The nearest train station is Huelva. Check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 912 320 320).



OTHER TRAILS

At the end of this trail, the Sendero Laguna del Huerto y Las Pajas trail begins. Coming from the A-483, the Charco del Acebrón and Charco de la Boca trails are also nearby. And from the A-494 you can access Laguna del Jaral and Cuesta Maneli trails.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

4,59 m

• MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

40,7 m

• MINIMUM ALTITUDE

36,11 m



THE COTOS OF DOÑANA

Far from the sea, where the impetus of the wind has lost its dominance of the dunes, the vegetation subjects and colonises the sands, giving rise to what are known as cotos. This Mediterranean scrubland space on sandy soil constitutes the oldest and most stable ecosystem of Doñana.

According to the dominant tone of the plants, two different communities of scrubland can be distinguished: the white scrubland, where white rockrose appear along with other clearer coloured species like rosemary, broom and Moorish rockrose, as well as lavender, thyme, etc. Among the darker coloured plants are green heather, fruze, heather and auala, together with brambles and flax-leaved daphne; constituting what is known as the black mountain.

In the area of *cotos* closest to the dunes, a rosary of temporary lagoons extends among the scrubland, like those of the Acebuche complex. This rich ecosystem of water and scrubland sustains a multitude of populations of small and large mammals: deer, bucks, wild boar, mongooses, bobcats and even the lynx, but also reptiles, beetles, butterflies and powerful vultures like the imperial eagle. It may or may not be surprise you but if you look closely, it's not difficult to make out some of their traces and signs.



Trail

Laguna del Acebuche



Together with beaches, the pines, wetlands and dunes of the transition zone between the sands and the clays of the bank, the *cotos* are one of the ecosystems that make up the extraordinary live mosaic that is Doñana. The *coto* is a space of scrubland on sandy soil that boasts a great variety of environments.

The Acebuche trail runs entirely through this ecosystem of, among other species, pine forests with edgings of white poplars on the banks of the lagoon.

A space of scrubland and water

In the more depressed areas of the *coto*, groundwaters come to the surface forming wetlands, such as the Acebuche lagoon, which palpitates with the hubbub of life. Many birds take rest here on their migratory journeys, feed and are seduced and breed and care for their chicks in these wetlands. Keep your voice down, sharpen the sense and don't forget your binoculars. You are entering a very intimate space.



For deeper enjoyment of the experience, the trail continues to the south of the wetland along a wooden walkway with seven birdwatching observatories. Starting from the patio of the Visitor centre [1], head right at the first two crosses on the walkway. Here we find the lagoon, just a few metres away, although the vegetation doesn't always allow us to see it until we reach the observatories [2].

The history of the lagoon

The Acebuche lagoon forms part of a complex of endorreic lagoons that, located more or less in a straight line in parallel to the coast, define a set of sands (Abalarío, Acebuche, Laguna Dulce and Santa Olalla). In the 1950s, most of the lagoons of the eastern banks of the A-483 were drained



for the reforestation of the area with the aim of taking maximum economic advantage of the environment.

Life in the *cotos*

The forest repopulation brought with it the human repopulation of the territory. Settlements like Acebuche were established here to foster reforestation. Over the course of the trail, you will find replicas of some elements such as charcoal burners and coal furnaces, which give us an idea of the life of those settlers, their uses and customs and trades of those who exploited the resources of the environment just as it was done ancient times. The observatories themselves have been built conserving the architecture of the rudimentary wooden and mud huts of the *coto*, where those workers and their families lived [3].



With the passage of time, the productivist mentality evolved into a more conservationist outlook respectful of the environment, and the Acebuche lagoons were recovered and reconditioned in the 1980s. Today it's a strategic nucleus of biodiversity where numerous species find a home and refuge.

A dry lagoon?

As expected for sandy wetlands, it's a temporary lagoon so don't be surprised if you find it without any water. But don't think that's something unfortunate. Its temporary nature allows for a constant relay of animal and plant life. This dynamism generates habitats of great value. In fact, the European Habitats Directive has declared them priority habitats under the designation "Mediterranean temporary ponds".

The music of the landscape

Stay attentive to the movements of the vegetation, the splashes, the songs. Take a deep breath and raise your binoculars or telescope: the Acebuche lagoon is a strategic spot for bird watching. When the lagoon has water, and depending on the time of year, there are diverse aquatic species to be found such as the common pochard, the great crested grebe, the red-crested pochard, the gadwall and the wigeon. Others, such as the mallard, night heron or the peculiar purple gallinule with its brilliant blue plumage and long coloured feet, it can be observed all year round. As well as the aquatic birds, there are other groups that can be observed throughout our route, such as the vivacious and lilted insectivores or the majestic raptors.



The fifth observatory [4] marks the extreme eastern end of the route ("Aviary 2"). Retracing our steps in a westerly direction; take a right to reach the last two observatories. Reaching the penultimate on the trail ("Zapullín"), you will find a panel with many of the lagoon's birds [5]. Even if you don't have binoculars, try to identify them. Recognising a bird in its natural habitat is an unforgettable experience.

The Acebuche trail ends at the Porrón observatory [6], which also marks the start of the Sendero Lagunas del Huerto y las Pajas and very close the Iberian lynx observatory, one of the few places in the world where the most threatened feline species on the planet can be observed in captivity by reservation through the El Acebuche Visitor Centre.



Trail

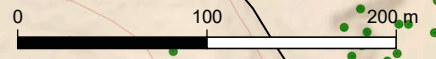
Laguna del Acebuche



1 Landmark (see text)

- Trail
- Recreation area
- Visitor Centre
- Observatory

- Laguna del Acebuche Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Roads
- Paths



a A-483

Observatorio del Lince Ibérico

Sendero Lagunas del Hierro y Las Pajás

6 Porrón

5 Zampullín

Somormujo 2

Calamón

3 Malvasía

Aviario 1

4 Aviario 2

1 El Acebuche

El Acebuche

Laguna del Acebuche