

## 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

Fábrica de Hielo Visitor's Centre. Bajo de Guía, s/n.  
Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Cádiz. Tel. 956 38 09 22.

ventanadelvisitante.



DOÑANA  
PARQUE NACIONAL  
PARQUE NATURAL



trail  
Cerro del Águila



## OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



### • ROUTE

Circular

### • LENGTH

4,7 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME

1 hour and 45 minutes

### • DIFFICULTY

Low

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Track with sandy surface

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Gentle relief populated by stone pines, specimens of juniper and characteristic scrubland. Possibility of sighting numerous species of birds and mammals. Panoramic views from the dune ridges.

### • SHADE

Scant

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz /Sanlúcar de Barrameda

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1033 - Matalascañas Sur

### • START / END COORDINATES

6° 18' 55'' O – 36° 50' 49.08'' N



## HOW TO GET THERE

From Sanlúcar de Barrameda take the CA-9027 towards Bonanza, heading north. After passing La Algaida, about 100 metres further on, the trail begins.



## PARKING

There is a car park with capacity for 30 vehicles.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

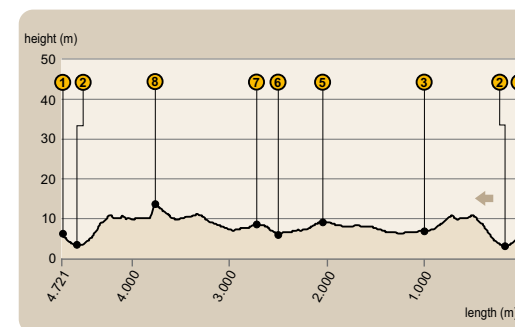
The main concessionaire of regular bus lines in the area is Linesur (tel. 956 34 10 63, www.linesur.com). The nearest railway stations are in El Puerto de Santa María and Jerez de la Frontera (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 902 24 02 02).



## OTHER TRAILS

The natural park offers a number of routes for hikers. Ask at the visitor's centres indicated.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

11 m

### • MAXIMUM HEIGHT

14 m

### • MINIMUM HEIGHT

3 m

## IN SEARCH OF THE MYTHICAL CITY

The River Guadalquivir seems to be reluctant to give up its waters to the Atlantic Ocean. Once in this area, it flows into a marsh that evokes the ancient estuary, the Roman Lake Ligustinus, through which, according to the Ora marítima of the poet Avieno (5th century BC), the River Tartessos would flow, pouring its waters through numerous mouths or spouts, after bathing the shores of the mythical city of the same name, located at the foot of Mount Argentario.



Centuries later, at the dawn of the new era, Strabo confirmed the sources that described the River Betis (Guadalquivir) as having two mouths, between which the city of Tartessos was located.

Scholars, historians, geographers, topographers and antiquarians have been keenly interested in solving the problem of the city's location since the Renaissance. After the development of scientific archaeology at the beginning of the previous century, many researchers devoted themselves to its search (A. Schulten and J. Bonsor are worth mentioning, among others), and there were several hypotheses about its location, on either side of the Guadalquivir, between it and the missing branch. Although without definitive results, its existence was never doubted, being considered the first city of the peninsular protohistory that allowed the beginning of the civilisation of the peoples of the Guadalquivir valley, reaching a remarkable development based on the exploitation and trade of metals under the influence of oriental cultures. Today, Tartessos is still, to a large extent, an enigma.





## A first walk to the lagoon

The route starts next to the car park at the entrance to the pine forest (check [1] on the map), from where the signs take us to the Tarelo Lagoon [2].



Leaving the observatory, we must walk northwards along the path on the right to enter the pine forest. The vegetation on both banks contrasts: stone pine, juniper, African sandalwood, mastic, jaguar, blackthorn, laburnum, *Halimium calycinum*, *Halimium halimifolium*, etc., on the left; and flax-leaved daphne, *Rhamnus glandulosa*, asparagus, honeysuckle and *Rubia peregrina* together with junipers, on the right.



*This artificial lagoon originated after the extraction of aggregates for the nearby agricultural colony. The place has become an ideal refuge for many birds, among which it is possible to observe damselflies, pochards and grebes together with dabchicks and coots. We can listen to the peculiar songs of these birds that intermingle in a pleasant concert.*

Further on the trail reaches a fork in the road. Here we take the path to the right (later returning by the same route) and enter a small, repopulated pine forest.

## White forest, black forest

Continuing towards the front at the next crossroads, we will come across whitish-coloured vegetation, the “monte blanco” (white forest). We can compare it with the one to our right, in the pine forest, on lower, wetter ground. This is the black forest [3].



Continue straight on at the next fork and after about five hundred metres we must take the small lane on the left, which will allow us to find the riverbank [4].



*In this area, the sands of the pine forest meet the clays of the marshland, which has been largely transformed for salt use, as we can see from the large accumulations of salt located on the strip parallel to the River Guadalquivir.*

We will return to the main path and continue for a couple of hundred metres before turning left towards a rocky area covered with rosemary bushes. The landscape will then change to give way to large pines and junipers [5].



## Crowning fossil dunes

The terrain becomes more undulating in the pine forest, with areas of black rockrose, myrtle and mastic. At the next crossroads, we must take the path on the right [6] and the next one on the left, until we reach an area where we can find two very different landscapes [7]: on the left, a very degraded area with little vegetation, due to a recent fire, with some patches of black rockrose and young pines and some scattered specimens of larger trees; on the right, on the other hand, the pine forest, unaffected by the fire, is dense.



*We will be able to take advantage of the elevation of the fossil dunes to gain height and, with it, enjoy the views.*

After about three hundred metres, a fossil dune covered with rosemary and juniper can be found on the right. In the lane, the burnt area gives way to a consolidated pine forest. Large patches of junipers accompany the scrub, together with flax-leaved daphnes and black rockroses. A new crossroads on the left leads us along a path flanked by small dunes and, a hundred metres further on to the right, another higher dune [8], surrounded by junipers and Portuguese crowberries, among other species. It is advisable to walk along the crest of the dune until we descend to a lane that runs alongside the agricultural area. To the left we reach the parking area, where the route ends.

On the other bank of the Guadalquivir, Doñana continues to be an area full of richness. This trail reveals part of them. It also offers a route through an area where numerous species live; it allows you to witness the encounter between the domains of the sea and the land, where the salt industry has prospered; to look out over fossil dunes at the views of the river and the other bank opposite; and to appreciate the subtleties of a vegetation that tinges this circular itinerary with shades of green, without any difficulty to follow it.





# Trail

## Cerro del Águila

