

## 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



Free camping is not permitted



Plant collecting is not allowed



Fishing is prohibited

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. Matalascañas. Almonte. Huelva.  
Tel. 959 43 96 29. 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

Lagunas del Huerto y  
Las Pajas



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

Circular

### LENGTH

3,3 km

### ESTIMATED TIME

1 hour

### DIFFICULTY

Low - Trail accessible for persons with reduced mobility

### TYPE OF TRAIL

Wooden walkway

### LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Lagoon complexes. Wetland on sandy soil, with stone pine forests, edgings of white poplar and marsh vegetation. There are also disperse olive trees and savines.

### SHADE

Scant, only on certain sections.

### SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required Freed admission during the opening hours of El Acebuche Visitor's Centre.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry binoculars, drinking water, sunscreen and wear suitable clothing and footwear. It is recommended to carry mosquito repellent most of the year.

### PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Huelva / Almonte

### SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

N.º 1017

### START / END COORDINATES

37° 3' 0" N, 6° 34' 8" W

37° 3' 0" N, 6° 34' 8" W



## HOW TO GET THERE

To access the trail you, head for the El Acebuche Visitor's Centre, exiting the A-483 at km 37.8, in the direction of Bollullas del Condado-Matalascañas. From Matalascañas, exit the A483 at kp 38.2. Continue along the asphalt track for approximately two kilometres to El Acebuche Visitor's Centre, where the wooden walkway starts. Turn left at each of the first three forks in the path to reach the start of the trail.



## PARKING

There is an extensive parking area at the El Acebuche Visitor's Centre (100 spaces for cars and 16 for buses). There are also spaces reserved for persons with reduced mobility.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

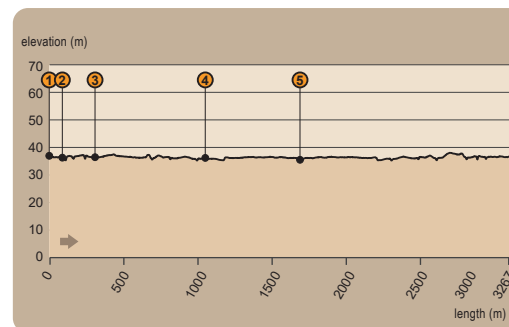
It is not possible to access the trail by public transport. The principal bus company operating regular lines in the area is Damas S.A. (tel. 959 25 69 00) with the closest bus stop in Matalascañas, some 5 kilometres away, where there is a taxi service. The nearest train station is Huelva (check services and timetables at [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) or tel. 912 320 320).



## OTHER TRAILS

The Sendero Laguna del Acebuche also starts at the visitors' centre. 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

2,88 m

### MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

38,15 m

### MINIMUM ALTITUDE

35,27 m



## HOW THE VEGETATION OF THE COTOS GOT HERE

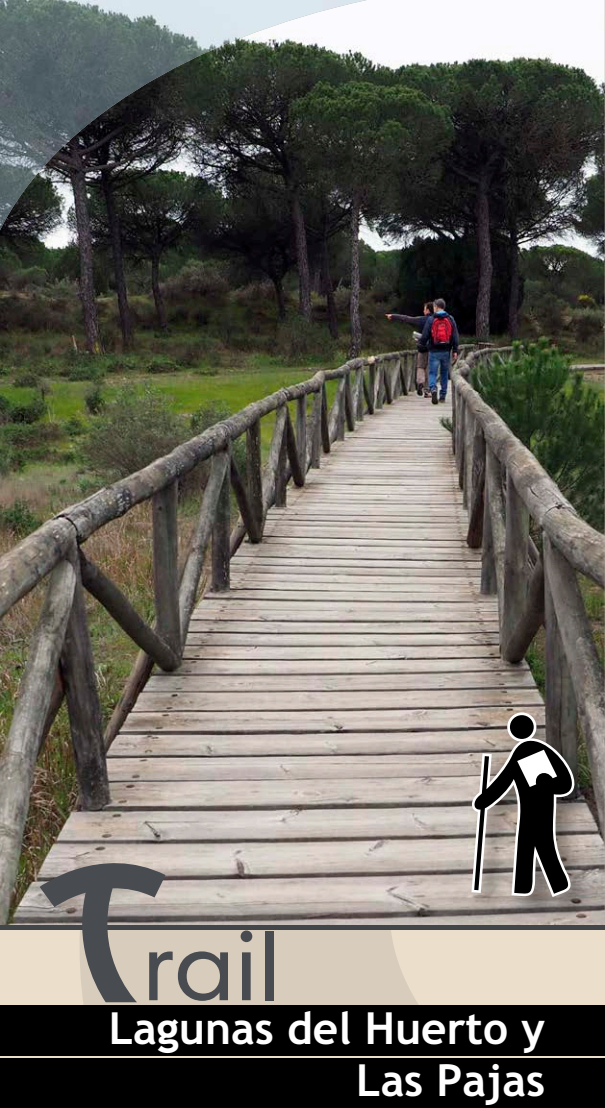
The ecological and historical evolution of the vegetation on the Sendero Lagunas del Huerto y las Pajas is similar to that of the broader area we know as El Abalarío. It is an area with poor land with a high reliance on groundwater. The scant human presence is due precisely to the harshness of this environment, with a high incidence of malaria and a tradition of very low intensity uses such as hunting, grazing, use of pastures and coal mining. From the 1940s on, these traditional uses were replaced, through state intervention, with the planting of eucalyptus and pines across most of the territory, transforming it substantially.

## What vegetation was there before human intervention?

The ecological conditions (soil, humidity, climate) point to a landscape of white mountain with savine, dotted with rockrose, rosemary, lavender and sports of black scrubland with heath, furze, myrtle and creepers. The temporary lagoons or ponds emerge when water rises from the subsoil, with reeds, irises and buttercups.

Today, the marks of the pine and eucalyptus plantations from the last 20th century can still be seen, such as the process of the loss of wetlands and the scrubland's colonisation of the lagoons such as the Huerto and Las Pajas lagoons.





Amid the edgings of white poplars, forests of stone pine and the odd savine and olive tree, the lagoon trail runs entirely through this ecosystem of scrubland and water. The trail begins at the end of the Acebuche trail [1] and runs towards the Huerto and Las Pajas lagoons through a series of walkways around the canals. Finally, it returns to the starting point along the south side of the meandering piers.

### The traces of settlers on the *coto*

From the first few metres we encounter the vestiges of the old settlers of the *coto*, such as the reproduction of a distillery of essences [2] and charcoal ovens. Ultimately, the history of these wetlands is closely intertwined with our own. In the 1950s, the wetlands were drained in order to reforest and exploit the area economically. The forest repopulation brought with it the human repopulation of the territory: the new resources of the environment allowed for new uses, such as the commercial production of pines and eucalyptus essences. Some decades later, the wetland was restored and reconditioned. Today it's a strategic nucleus of biodiversity where numerous species find a home and refuge.



The Huerto and Las Pajas lagoons form part of the lagoon complex linked by numerous canals whose waters rise from the subsoil in rainy winters in the lower areas of the oldest and most stable ecosystem of Doñana: the *coto*.

The *coto* is a space of scrubland on sandy soil that boasts a great variety of environments. Depending on the predominant tone of the plants, there are two principal communities of scrubland: white and black.

### Dry wetlands?

As expected for sandy wetlands, it's a temporary lagoon so don't be surprised if you find it without any water. The flooding cycle is short so it's not unusual to see them dry. Because it's at a higher altitude than the Acebuche lagoon, the Huerto and Las Pajas lagoons are usually the first to dry out. But don't think that's a negative factor. Its temporary nature allows for a constant relay of animal and plant life. This dynamism generates habitats of great value. In fact, Europe has declared them priority habitats under the designation "Mediterranean temporary ponds".

### The hubbub of life on the *coto*

Stay attentive to the movements of the vegetation, the splashes, the songs. Take a deep breath and raise your binoculars or telescope. When the lagoons have 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 can be spotted all year round. As well as the aquatic birds, you will no doubt hear the noisy azure-winged magpie or the vivacious and lilting insectivores.

Pay attention. You might even hear the cry of the stag, the squealing of the wild boar or the shriek of the eagle. The *cotos* are a habitat for a multitude of animals. The thicket of the scrubland is also the natural territory of the most iconic feline of Doñana and, while it's not event to find, you can view at the Iberian lynx observatory [3] with an advance booking at El Acebuche Visitors Centre.



The observatory has few of an enclosure that recreates the natural habitat and the lynx enjoy a certain degree of comfort. The specimens come from the captivity breeding programme that began here in Doñana and that has contributed so much to improving the situation when it was on the verge of the extinction. At present, a good number of lynxes from the breeding programme are bred in freedom across their old territories.

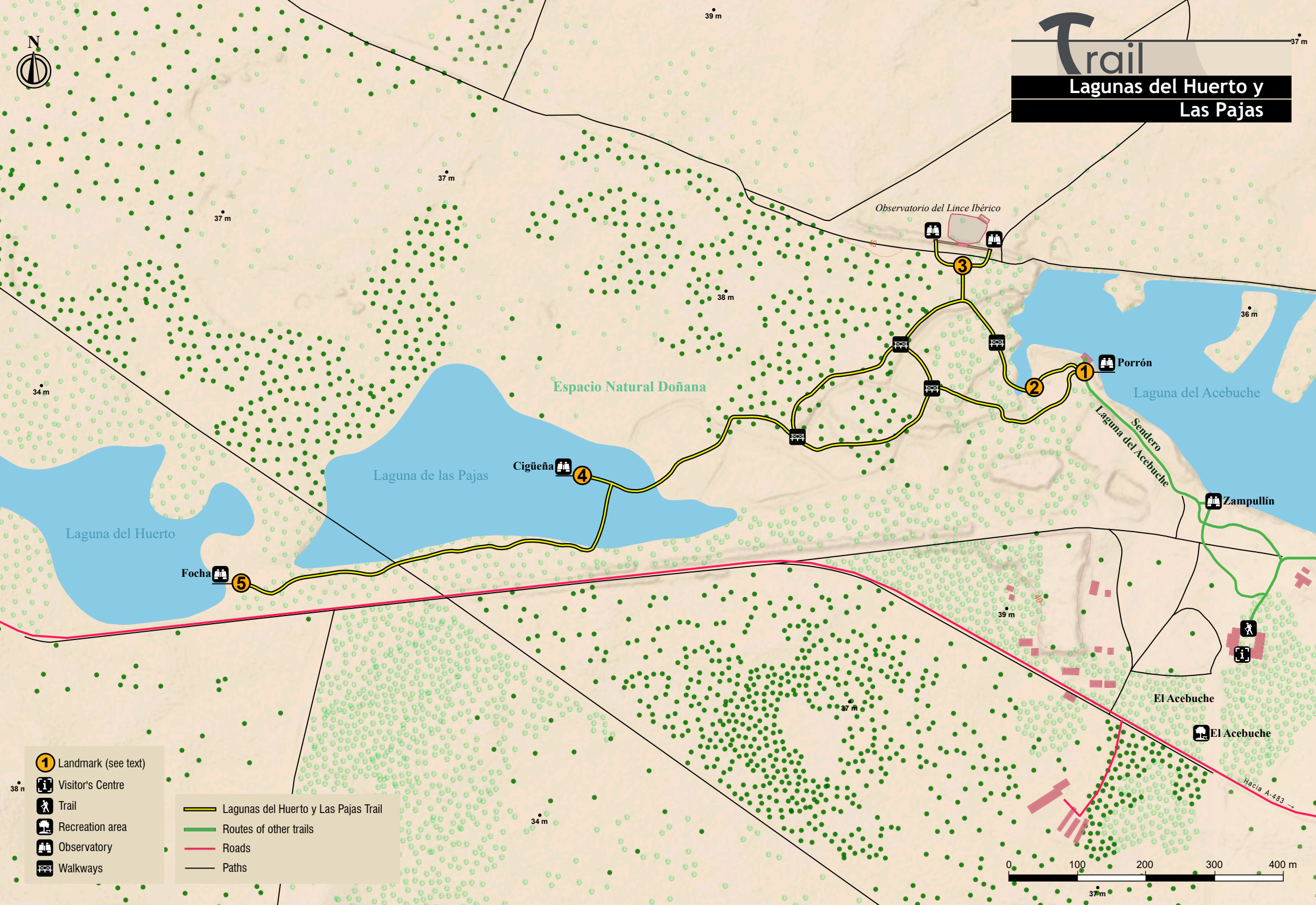


Form the lynx observatory, turn right at the crosses, the walkway takes us to the avifauna observatory at the Las Pajas lagoon [4] and, six hundred metres further, the Huerto lagoon observatory [5]. As the route returns to the starting point, we retrace our steps. There are several loops or ribbon circuits over the channels. You can explore the route any way you like but take the right turn at each crossing to make sure you see the whole trail without missing any details.





# Lagunas del Huerto y Las Pajas



① Landmark (see text)

🏠 Visitor's Centre

🚶 Trail

🏖 Recreation area

🔭 Observatory

🚶 Walkways

— Lagunas del Huerto y Las Pajas Trail

— Routes of other trails

— Roads

— Paths

