

## 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

HUELVA



## MORE INFORMATION

Huelva Territorial Delegation  
Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development  
C/ Sanlúcar de Barrameda, 3. Huelva. Tel. 959 01 15 00  
ventanadelvisitante

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UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARAJE NATURAL  
Marismas  
del Odiel



El Almendral

## 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 walk

### LENGTH (OUTWARD)

1,3 km

### ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

30 minutes

### DIFFICULTY

Low

### TYPE OF TRAIL

Track

### LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Marshland with halophile vegetation such as *Spartina maritima*, sea asparagus, *Limoniastrum monopetalum*, etc. Wide cereal fields.

### SHADE

None

### SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Yes. Needs to be requested at the Natural Landscape Offices.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

This is a very sensitive ecosystem. Please do not walk outside the marked paths in order to not jeopardize its conservation.

### PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Huelva / Huelva

### SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

999 - Huelva

### START / END COORDINATES

37° 12' 27,43" N – 6° 57' 29,95" O

37° 12' 34,47" N – 6° 58' 16,53" O



### HOW TO GET THERE

From Huelva, take the A-497 in the direction of Punta Umbria-Aljaraque. After crossing the bridge, take the road to the right in the direction of Corrales. In the first roundabout, take the road to Marismas del Odiel Natural Landscape



### PARKING

The area does not have any area dedicated as a car park, but the hiking authorisation allows you to park your car in a large yard by the start of the trail.



### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

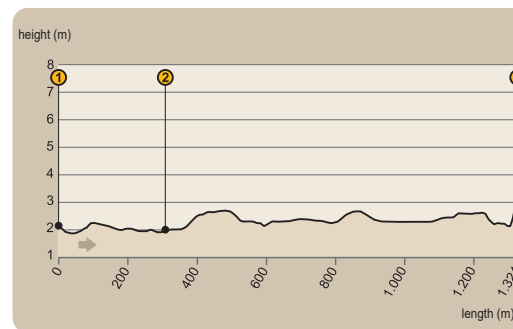
Regular buses are mainly operated by the company Damas, S.A. Telephone: 902 11 44 92  
www.damas-sa.es



### OTHER TRAILS

The natural site offers other routes, as many as for other trails run nearby: Salinas de Bacuta, Calatilla de Bacuta, La Cascajera and El Acebuchal, the two latter require an authorisation to visit.

### PROFILE OF ROUTE



### MAXIMUM GRADIENT

1 m

### MAXIMUM HEIGHT

3 m

### MINIMUM HEIGHT

2 m

## COMMON SPOONBILL (PLATALEA LEUCORODIA)

This elegant wader chooses the swamps of Marismas de Odiel to breed, more specifically the island called Isla de Enmedio, which is the home of the largest colony of common spoonbills in Europe, 30% of the total specimens. This is a threatened species which has found that this wetland is an ideal place to breed. They make their nests, which are a small platform of mud and twigs, between the wild asparagus and *Spartina maritima*.

Their white feathers make a striking contrast with their black legs and beak, which looks like a spatula or a spoon. During the breeding season, they grow a yellowish bib and a tuft of white feathers at the back of their necks, and a yellow spot appears in the tip of their beaks. This spot is like their signature, since it is different for every specimen. Spoonbills fly and hunt in groups, albeit never too large, and they do not enjoy socializing with other species.

One of their biggest threats has a natural origin: since their nests are in the ground, they can be swept away by high tides. In order to prevent this, artificial nesting platforms were built in order to minimize this risk and prevent chicks to be carried away.



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





# Trail

## El Almendral



### Croplands

The trail starts in the road by the piers, shortly after crossing the Puente del Burro bridge (see [1] on the map). Please be aware that you need an authorisation to hike in the area. To the east lies the bridge over the Tinto river and the Columbus memorial standing in Punta del Sebo.



From the beginning of the trail, you will see signs of human-made elements that have modelled the landscape. The

presence of invasive species of prickly pear to be used as a sort of fence, and the broad cereal fields, associated to the extensive sheep and horse breeding, are signs of the domestication of the marsh. Some specimens of eucalyptus were even planted, and today they stand next to the perimeter fence. The marshes extend also to the right side of the bank [2], where you can appreciate their original vegetation, such as wild asparagus and amaranths, and, of course, *Spartina maritima*.



This area is heavily influenced by tides. During the low tide you may see shorebirds feeding on small crustaceans or molluscs which appear on the mud.



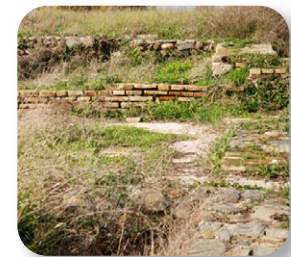
We advise you to look at the sky while hiking, in order to be able to appreciate the enormous quantities of birds flying by. In late summer, you may see storks gathering in large musters to prepare their migratory flight to warmer latitudes, in search of a place to breed, although it is increasingly common to have some specimens that stay to spend the winter here.

### The Arab town of Shaltish

When the trail forks, take the right path. The left path leads to agricultural installation existing in this area. The path continues along a wire fence, until you cross a wooden and wire gate. A few metres after, you will find one of the most surprising elements in Saltés: the remains of an old Arab town. The town of Shaltish [3] dates back to the 10th and 11th centuries on its heyday it was the see of the taifa kingdom under the domination of the *Baikries* and subsequently of under the rule of Abd al-Aziz al-Bakri the Lord of Umba (Huelva) and Xaltis (Saltés). The urban plan is unusually regular considering the Arab tradition and included a fortress (*alcazaba*) for defensive purposes. It had



a population of 10,000, and its main trades were metallurgy and metal trading, based on the ore extracted in the mines upstream. However, the town was gradually abandoned from mid-11th century. You can now see the outline of houses, ceramic remains and fragments of the wall that formed the central fortress.



After enjoying this singular site, walk to the north-western edge of the island [4] to appreciate the different canals that discharge at this point, as well as the island called Isla de Enmedio and classified as a Natural Reserve. This is a nesting space for herons, little egrets, mallards, common spoonbills, etc., and also an important resting place for migratory birds.

Now you only have to retrace your path to finish this trail.



The sandy hook of El Almendral is a part of the Saltés island, created by the natural evolution of the rivers Tinto and Odiel over the centuries. The first impression may be that this is an arid, dreary, unattractive, soulless place. It is hard to imagine that this was the site of important human settlement from ancient times to the Middle Ages. Tartesians, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans and Arabs made this place an important cultural and trade hub, thanks to its strategic placement and its valuable ore, salt and fish resources.

# Trail

## El Almendral



4

1m

3m

3

El Almendral

2m

Marismas del Odiel

2m

2m

0m

2

1

2m

Canal del Chate

Canal del Chate

Caño el Ancho

Canal del Burrillo

Canal del Burrillo

- El Almendral Trail
- Marismas del Odiel
- Road
- Path
- Electricity network

- 1 Landmark (see text)
- Interpretive panel

0 100 200 m