

GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked trails



Please refrain from making noise



Pets must be kept on a leash and their droppings collected



Capturing animals is not permitted



Fishing and hunting are prohibited



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Camping is prohibited



Access with motor vehicles is prohibited

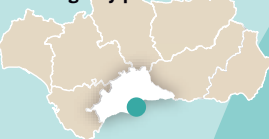


Cycling is prohibited (except for the first 220 metres)



Flying drones is prohibited

Emergency phone: 112



MORE INFORMATION

Regional Delegation in Malaga for Sustainability, Environment and Blue Economy. Avda. de la Aurora, 47. Multiple Services Building, 5th and 6th floors. 29071. Malaga.

Tel. 951 77 70 08 / 670 94 88 94.

ventanadelvisitante

MÁLAGA

PARAJE NATURAL
Desembocadura
del Guadalhorce

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UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

PARAJE NATURAL

Desembocadura
del Guadalhorce



Del Río Viejo

MÁLAGA



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

ROUTE

Linear walk

LENGTH (ONE-WAY)

1,6 km

ESTIMATED TIME (ONE-WAY)

1 hour

DIFFICULTY

Low

TYPE OF TRAIL

Compacted ground track

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Landscape formed of riverside, lake and marine ecosystems, with a great diversity of species of wild fauna and flora, especially aquatic birds and certain mammals of interest. Panoramic views over the city of Malaga and the mountainous limestone arc that frames it.

SHADE

Scarce

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required to walk along the trail, but no unauthorised access to the lagoons or their surroundings is allowed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bring binoculars, drinking water, sunscreen and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Málaga / Málaga

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1053

START / END COORDINATES

36° 40' 21.17" N - 4° 27' 49.26" O

36° 40' 24.98" N - 4° 26' 57.27" O



HOW TO GET THERE

Take exit 3 (San Julián and Guadalmar) at km 4 of the MA-20 motorway. Continue towards Guadalmar and turn left at the roundabout at the entrance to the housing estate, along Calle Guadalhorce. You can park near the church and continue on foot for about 300 m along Calle Guadalhorce. Take the dirt track that climbs up to the left, next to a stone gate with a chain and walk north-west for another 260 m until you reach the trailhead.



PARKING

There is no car park at the trail. Parking can be found nearby.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

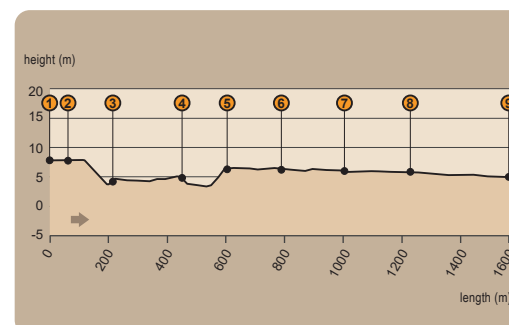
You can get the bus to the trail area. The city bus company in Malaga is the EMT (Empresa Malagueña de Transportes 952 36 72 00, www.emtmalaga.es). The number 5 bus goes to Guadalmar, you should get off at the first stop on Calle Manuel Curros Enríquez.



OTHER TRAILS

The Laguna Grande trail, which sets off from the same start point, is another trail in the Desembocadura del Guadalhorce Natural Park. You can opt to follow a circular route, linking both paths on a stretch of about 700 m along the beach. The resulting circular route has a total length of 4 km and is of low difficulty.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

4,37 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

7,74 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

3,37 m



THE GUADALHORCE RIVER

At the foot of the limestone mountain ranges of San Jorge and Gibalto, on the border between the regions of Malaga and Granada, the water flows as if through Paradise. From this multitude of springs, the Guadalhorce River is born, a corridor of waterfalls, ravines, gorges and lagoons that connects, from its easternmost part, the mountain ranges of the central limestone arc of Malaga with the Mediterranean Sea. Sheltered by this vein of land, life and landscape proliferate. The 166 kilometres of the Guadalhorce provide the backbone of the region that bears its name, irrigating orchards and crops, and relieving and refreshing the villages along its banks.

The Guadalhorce is the longest river with the greatest quantity of water in Malaga. Along with its tributaries, it collects most of the province's water and flows almost entirely within the regional boundaries. Its mighty course towards the Mediterranean has carved out the monumental gorge known as Desfiladero de los Gaitanes. In its last stretch, the Guadalhorce River, like the Guadalmedina, has formed the alluvial plain of Hoya de Málaga. Some 2800 years ago, the Phoenicians who settled in the ancient estuary sailed the river with their ships. Nowadays, the Guadalhorce forms a delta teeming with life and maintains the longest stretch of natural beach on the coastline of the municipality of Malaga.



Bridge over the Guadalhorce

The start of the trail [1] is located next to the pedestrian bridge that crosses the right branch of the river, with its back to the Phoenician site of Cerro del Villar and just a few minutes from Malaga airport. The trail, which shares the first 450 metres with the Laguna Grande trail, crosses the Natural Park perpendicularly until it reaches the vicinity of the old minor branch of the Guadalhorce or “old river”, continues parallel to the riverbed and, practically on the waters of the Mediterranean, ends at the seabird observatory. Its route runs through the heart of the protected natural area, showing us various ecosystems, different forms of life with their particular characteristics and species, coexisting in harmony and sharing transitional spaces.

The bridge [2], supported on the pillars of an old railway line, takes you into the mouth of the river, allowing you to enjoy the first of these ecosystems: the riverside ecosystem. Depending on the time of year, you will be able to spot common house martins, swallows, herons, ducks, cormorants, birds of prey and the elusive otter among the banks populated by tamarisks, eucalyptus and reed beds.

A sweet past

The plain covered with bearberries and reeds that you saw when you left the bridge belonged to the area was known as “La Isla” (“The Island”) and was occupied, until recently, by sugar cane crops. This plant supplied the raw material to the Azucarera Hispania factory, the last industry of this type to remain active in the city. In less than 100 metres you will come to a junction where the path crosses the Malaga Coast path [3]. The path on the left leads to the town via a pretty 270-metre long wooden footbridge;



the longest in Europe, although the trail you are following continues along the pedestrian walkway at the gate on the right. The trail continues along a practically flat dirt track.

Flanked by a corridor of reeds that are not sugar cane but do recreate the appearance the location had until the end of the 1970s, you will come to the crossroads where the trails separate [4]. The Laguna Grande trail continues to the right, whilst the one you are following heads in a straight line towards the left branch of the Guadalhorce. Wild olive trees, holm oaks, acacias, pines, tamarisks, black and white hawthorns, mastic trees, Italian buckthorn, strawberry trees and other interesting bushes form a botanical garden of species from the province of Malaga that accompanies the path, providing welcome shade in some sections.

Where the path turns south in the direction of the lagoon lookouts, the vegetation opens up, coinciding with one of the highest points of the route [5]. From here you can appreciate the proximity of the city and distinguish the outline of the neighbouring mountain ranges of Churriana and Mijas, the more distant Sierra Tejeda, Montes de Málaga, Sierra de las Nieves and the Torcal de Antequera.

Life in the lagoons

The lagoons, which have their origins in old, restored gravel pits, form the main ecosystem of this natural area. Although the noise of the birds gives away their proximity, the first sight we have of the Laguna de La Casilla is surprising. The observatory of the same name [6] is just a few metres away, among



the tamarisk trees that preserve its privacy. Depending on the time of year, you can spot coots, black-winged stilts, pochards, egrets, white-headed ducks, grebes, Western swamp hens, mallards, Cetti’s warblers, jackdaws and many other species of birds that take advantage of the vegetation and the less brackish waters offered by this lagoon. If you are lucky, you may come across some animals which are frequent visitors but very elusive such as the Montpellier snakes, otters, mongooses or foxes.

In just over 200 metres, alongside the meandering old riverbed, the trail reaches the second of the observatories: the Río Viejo [7], where, thanks to its silty banks, it is easy to observe waders such as black-winged stilts, redshanks, sandpipers and even flamingos, wading in search of food. The bend described by the abandoned meandering riverbed can be seen a few metres further on [8].

The last stretch of the path takes us to the longest wild beach on the coastline of the municipality of Malaga. The vegetation is reduced to species typical of coastal sands such as sea fennel and beach thistles, forming a suitable habitat for nesting and roosting of protected birds, which is why under no circumstances is it permitted to enter the marked area. The trail ends at the Seabird Observatory [9] where, in addition to an interesting panoramic view over the bay of Malaga, you can observe birds seabirds, such as the black-legged terns, shearwaters or the great skua, and enjoy the swooping flights of the Atlantic gannet.



Trail

Del Río Viejo



Paraje Natural Desembocadura del Guadalhorce

Mar Mediterráneo

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | Del Río Viejo Trail | | Landmark (see text) |
| | Other trails of the natural park | | Observatory |
| | Road | | Trail |
| | Path | | Bridge |
| | Protected Natural Area | | Panoramic view |
| | | | Archaeological remains |
| | | | Coast Path Footbridge |

