

This second trail gets you into a plain, open land covered by the white forest, where the pines give way to a growth of halimium (*Halimium halimifolium*) along with several aromatic plants, such as rosemary (*Rosmarinum officinalis*), French lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*) or mastic thyme (*Thymus mastichina subsp. donyanae*). In the surroundings of the creek, the soil is more humid and richer and the vegetation diversifies with the presence of wild olive trees (*Olea europaea var. sylvestris*), kermes oaks (*Quercus coccifera*), mastic trees (*Pistacia lentiscus*) or dwarf fan palms (*Chamaerops humilis*).

Following the other branch of the path, you will get back into the pine forest and will arrive back to the Algaida del Carrizal, where the reeds are predominant in the landscape. Among them, climbing species bramble and hold their long and flexible stems looking for well lighted areas: common smilax (*Smilax aspera*), honeysuckles (*Lonicera periclymenum subsp. hispanica*), hedge bindweeds (*Calystegia sepium*) and brambles (*Rubus ulmifolius*) create a dense and intricate tangle.

When you leave the trail, the path evolves along the channel, offering a panoramic view of the various vegetal formations appearing in its banks, from the farthest pine forests to the layer of reeds and bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) covering the centre of the course, and including cork oak trees, ferns and willows, in a wide range of strata, colours and shapes.



We remind you that the following actions are forbidden:

-  Abandoning the path
-  Driving bicycles
-  Disturbing the environment
-  Entering pets
-  Throwing rubbish
-  Making disturbing noise

The conservation of this singular sites depends on all of us Thank you for your co-operation



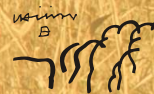
For further information, please visit the Centre for Visitors:

- Acebuche: 959439629
- Palacio del Acebrón: 671593138
- Rocina: 959439569
- José Antonio Valverde: 671564145
- Fábrica de Hielo: 956386577
- Centenales: 959439620
- Bajo de Guía: 956380922
- Dehesa Boyal: 670947837
- Casa Grande Information Bureau: 955750209

Doñana Natural Area's Bureau
 C.A. El Acebuche
 21760 Matalascañas
 Huelva
 Phone: 959448640
 Fax: 959448576
 Email: en.donana.cma@juntadeandalucia.es



Fotografía: J.M.Pérez de Ayala y M.L. Rivera Silva



DOÑANA
 PARQUE NACIONAL
 PARQUE NATURAL

Texto y Diseño: M.L. Rivera Silva

CONSEJERÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE

2. The Charco de la Boca Path












The last stretch of the Rocina Creek, where the latter becomes the main channel of the Rocío Marshes, is a site with thick and diverse vegetation where the landscape evolves all the time.

The Centre for Visitors “La Rocina” is at only a few kilometres from the Rocío Village. In its various rooms, complete information is provided on the possibilities for visiting this territory and, specifically, on the protected areas. Additionally, a hut located nearby offers the possibility of learning interesting issues with regard to the Rocío Procession, which takes place in Doñana every year in the springtime.

The Charco de la Boca Path starts in the front patio of the Centre for Visitors. It is about 3.5 km long and includes several adjoining stretches that will allow you to organise your journey in accordance with your preferences.

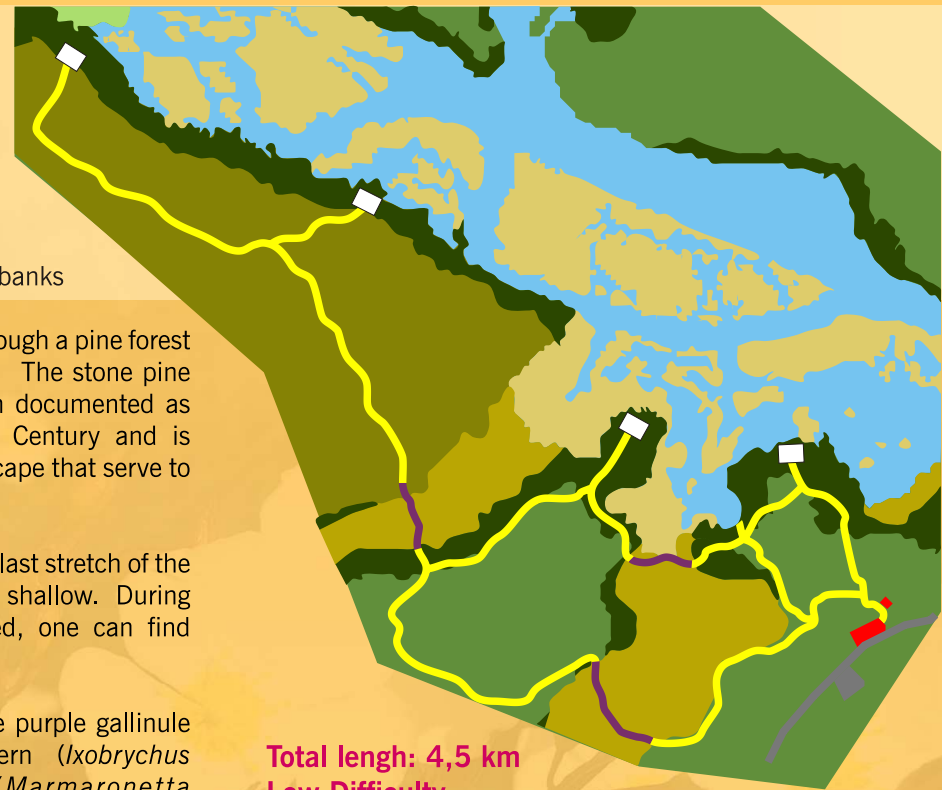
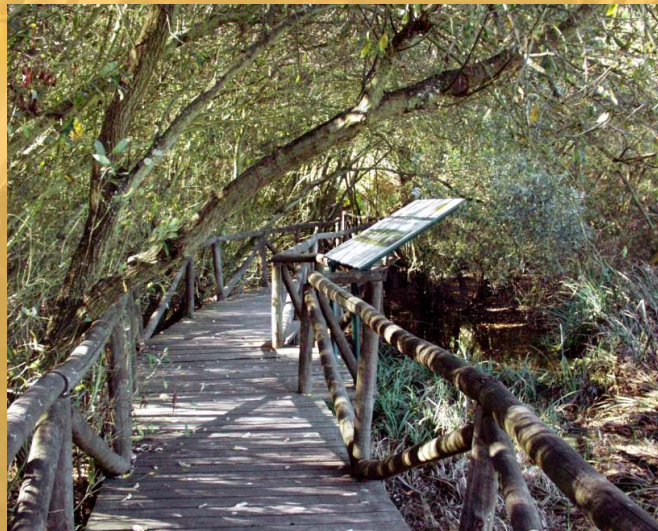
At first, it gets close to the “rociera” (Rocío style) hut. Pay attention to its construction features. It represents a life style that has practically disappeared from the region and using the resources available in the area as construction materials: trunks of eucalyptus, savines or pines and sedge (*Scirpus maritimus*) from the marches. The same type of construction, especially appropriate for the climatic conditions of the site, has been used in building the observatories located along the path.

-  Free water
-  Pine forests
-  Shrubland
-  Gallery forest
-  Marsh vegetation
-  Marsh vegetation plus trees
-  Cork oak forest and vegetation of the banks





The path leads to the bank of the creek through a pine forest resting on a carpet of herbaceous plants. The stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) is a species that has been documented as present in the region since the XVIIIth Century and is currently one of the elements in the landscape that serve to identify Doñana.

The first observatory shows up next to the last stretch of the creek, where its course becomes wide and shallow. During the season in which the area is flooded, one can find numberless birds in these waters.

La Rocina is ideal for the breeding of the purple gallinule (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), the little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) or the marbled teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), although some other species can be frequently found in this environment, such as the glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), the grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*) or the purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*) among other.



Total length: 4,5 km
Low Difficulty
Estimated time: 1,5 h

-  La Rocina Visitors' Centre
-  Observatories
-  Path
-  Trail

Next, the path gets into the Algaída del Carrizal, next to a branch of the creek, an area covered with a rich vegetation. The trail leads you around willows (*Salix atrocinerea*) and reeds (*Phragmites australis*), offering a privileged view of the flooded areas.

Beyond the channel, you will find the pine forest extending itself along the whole journey until the second observatory on the creek is reached. Behind the latter, the Algaída del Meloncillo can be found, another brook feeding water into the creek. On both banks, the soil has been covered by a thick growth of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) as a transition towards the bank vegetation covering the course of the creek. Several specimens of large cork oaks (*Quercus suber*) outstand very close to the water and next to the willows. At this point, the path forks and offers the options of following the trail or getting back into the pine forest.