

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

Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development.
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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

5,1 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

2 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Mixed landscape with marshland and Mediterranean forest, with halophile vegetation such as *Spartina maritima*, sea asparagus, *Limoniastrum monopetalum*, etc. in the marshes and stone pines, Sabina junipers and Mediterranean bush on the sand bank.

• 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 Park.



PARKING

Cars can only be parked in those sections of the road which have especially prepared places.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

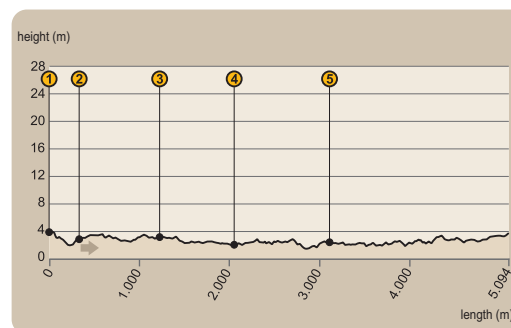
Regular buses are mainly operated by the company Damas, S.A. Telephone: 902 11 44 92
www.damas-sa.es



OTHER TRAILS

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

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

3 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

4 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

1 m

THE PIER

The building of the Juan Carlos I contention dyke, popularly known as The Pier, was a milestone in the history of the Marismas del Odiel Natural Landscape. This dyke was built as a response of the necessity of allowing large ships to enter the port of Huelva. It is 30 m long and the access road to the lighthouse at the end of the dyke is 25 m long.



In its south side, sand brought by wind and tides have formed a wide beach which is already 2.5 km long. This has prevented sand from accumulating at the mouth of the water

inlet, blocking it. The Pier has also opened a new access to this Natural Landscape and has allowed an increasing number of visitors to come for leisure purposes, such as recreational fishing, going to the beach, etc. and also it a convenient access to the Natural Landscape. Besides, this area has become the new home to many species, which have colonized every inch of land reclaimed and turned into beach or marsh.

The Pier has also environmental value as a nesting area for birds such as little terns and a feeding area for shorebirds and herons.



HUELVA

PARAJE NATURAL
Marismas
del Odiel



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

Trail
La Cascajera



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



Sandy hooks

Our route starts in the road to the Juan Carlos I dyke, about 8.5 km from the Anastasio Senra Visitors' Centre. You can park to the right of the road, by the entrance gate (see [1] on the map). Shortly afterwards, you will find an interpretation panel explaining how the estuary, and particularly the Saltés island in which you stand, were formed.



Throughout the entire trail, you will progress along a sandy path. You will see many seashells, the local name for which is cascajos; hence the name of the trail [2]. Besides the name, the abundance of seashells is behind one of the area's special conditions, because they contribute to create calcium-rich soils which favour the presence of vegetable species different than in other spots within the Natural Landscape.



An example of this is the presence of *Halimium halimifolium* or rue. By the way, be careful with this one - it's very toxic. Another particularity is the existence of small freshwater ponds.

Continue walking along this seaside forest, surprisingly dense due to the abundance of bushes [3]. This dense Mediterranean scrubland creates a tight-knit undergrowth, and it is really hard to cross. Mastic, kermes oak, or *Halimium halimifolium* grow besides stone pines.

Clearings are dominated by a semi-parasitic species, African sandalwood, and the magnificent great mullein, which can reach up to two metres. Elegant *Juniperus turbinata* is also abundant on the sandy parts. The dense vegetation prevents spotting many birds, but you will hear the tweeting of passerine birds that live in the forest.

The estuary and marshes

The path progresses towards the Punta Umbria sea inlet, the forest becomes less dense, the marshes become visible and, at the bottom, Punta Umbría and its port [4].

The area close to the path is covered by *Limoniastrum monopetalum*, with its spectacular flowers in spring. A little further on down the road, in an area more heavily influenced by tides, and *Spartina maritima* or wild asparagus are the dominant species in the marshland. These plants are called halophiles and are adapted to highly saline environments. The road continues parallel to the water inlet until it comes near its confluence with the Estero de los Difuntos estuary, where it turns south-east.



In this section, the path runs between pine woods to the right and marshland to the left, so you can enjoy the sharp contrast of landscapes [5].

In this area there are many remains of pottery and ceramic pieces, possibly vestiges of civilizations that settled in the island, such as Tartessians, Romans, and, centuries after, Arabs.



On the way back, you can appreciate the woods of *Juniperus turbinata*, stone pines, and some specimens of wild olive trees [6]. Continue until you find another gate, a little to the north, which is the one you opened before to access the trail.

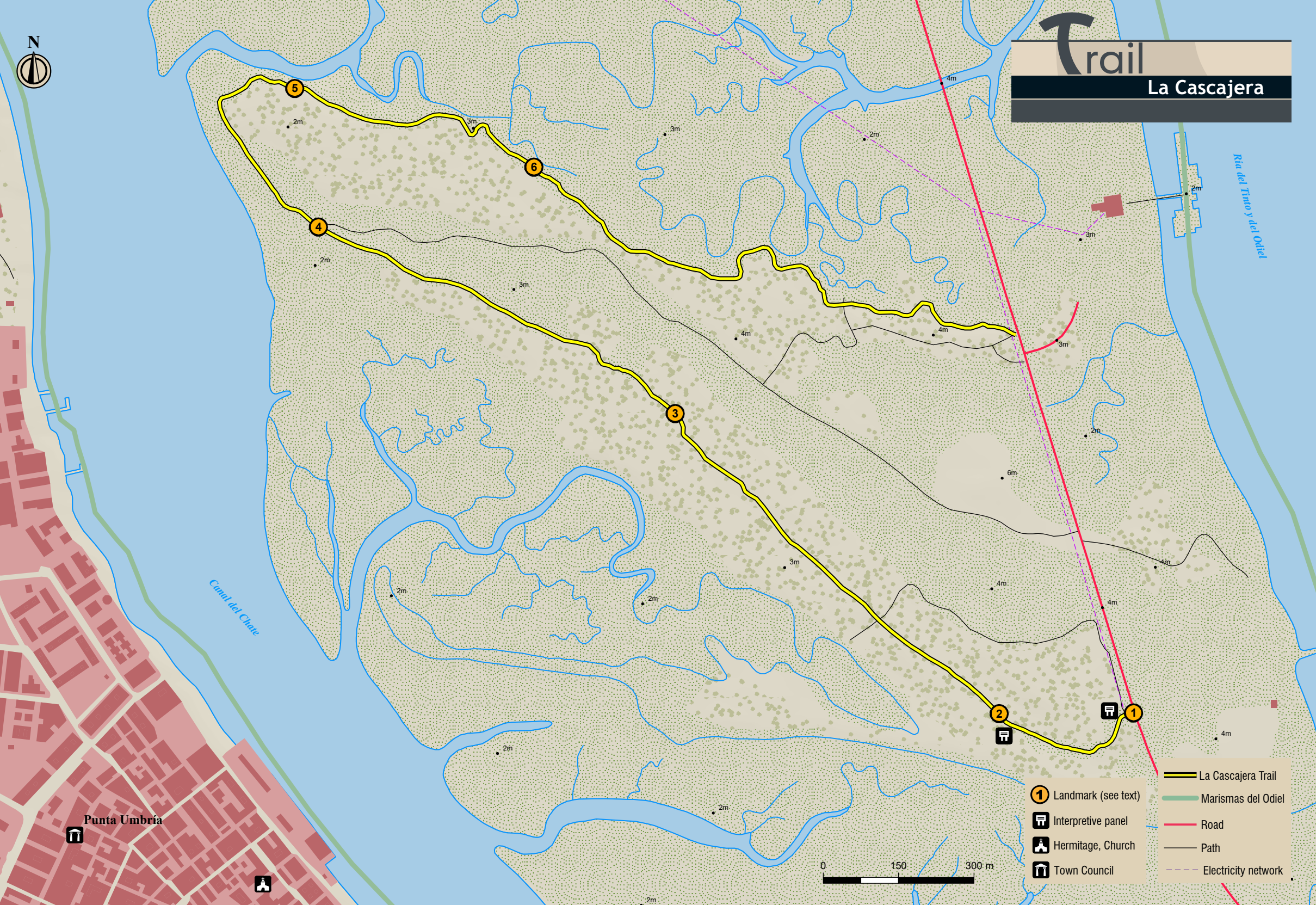


The Saltés island is rich in history, but its environmental significance is even bigger. With a mixed structure of consolidated sandy hooks and tidal marshes, it is a complex ecosystem which serves as the home for many wildlife species, especially birds. The nutrient-rich waters and the geographical locations attract a large number of birds. Its ecological significance is increased by the presence of a breeding colony of spoonbills, a rare species (among others).



Trail

La Cascajera



Canal del Chate

Ria del Tramo y del Odiel

Punta Umbria

- La Cascajera Trail
- Marismas del Odiel
- Road
- Path
- Electricity network
- Landmark (see text)
- Interpretive panel
- Hermitage, Church
- Town Council

