

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

PARAJE NATURAL
Marismas
del Odiel



Salinas Bacuta

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

1,7 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

30 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

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

• SHADE

None

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• 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° 15' 7,73" N – 6° 58' 7,76" O

37° 15' 7,71" N – 6° 58' 7,78" 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

There is car park at the start of the trail and there are also places nearby to leave your vehicle.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

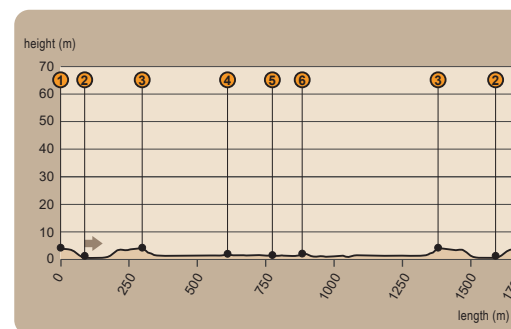
Regular buses are mainly operated by the company Damas, S.A. Telephone: 902 11 44 92
www.damas-sa.es



OTHER TRAILS

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

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

4 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

4 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

0 m

THE DOCKS

The large quantity of waste from dredging the port of Huelva brought to the surface vestiges of its past, such as spearheads, swords, knives and even a Greek helmet, which bear witness to the fact that this harbour was used by different cultures. Mining for ore and metalworking were the main trades of the area and this ensured intense sea traffic: ships from distant shores arrived at this ore-rich area though the port of Huelva.

Along the centuries, the port has changed its appearance. The new port, the Levante dock, was built in the 1970s, replacing the early 20th-century dock that had stood until then in its place. The industrial docks of Tharsis Dock, Rio Tinto Pier or Nuevo Puerto dock are also part of the port.

One of those docks is especially noteworthy and is, in fact, one of the most representative images of the city of Huelva: the Rio Tinto Pier. This dock is formed by a large metal and wooden structure by British engineers Sir George Barclay Bruce and Thomas Gibson built between 1874 and 1876. It was operational for almost one hundred years and it was used to charge the ore extracted from the Río Tinto mining sites (more than 150 million tonnes of ore throughout their entire history) by the upper tracks, and other goods in the lower tracks.

It was seriously damaged in the 1970s, when 50 metres of the pier were removed to build a road parallel to the riverbank. Its actual appearance is the result of a renovation, started after its classification as a Cultural Heritage Site.





Trail Salinas Bacuta

La Calatilla

This path starts at the entrance of the Anastasio Senra interpretation centre, where the initial panel is located (see [1] on the map). The trail goes south in the internal part of the fence, by the road. There is vehicle traffic so please be extremely careful. To the right, at the other side of the road, there are the Aragonesas company industrial salt evaporation ponds, when, in certain times of the year, flamingos



The Bacuta traditional salt ponds, which had been abandoned for decades, have been recently re-discovered for educational uses.

come to feed. Shortly afterwards, the trail reaches the bridge over the Caño de la Calatilla stream, which divides in two the Bacuta island [2]. From the bridge there is an impressive view of the city and the port of Huelva. A little further on down the road, the trail turns left and goes between the salt ponds by a narrow wooden walkway [3] until reaching one of the walls of the crystallization halls.



We are in the middle of the salt ponds; from here, you can see the different systems for creating sea water canals and reservoirs: channels, pipes and floodgates create a labyrinth path during the course of which sea water is turned into salt.

We can also see how wildlife has made their home in the salt ponds, feeding on the shallow water of the ponds and canals. Herons, little egrets, stilts and other waders share this feeding spot.

At the end of the wall of the crystallization hall, the path turns left and then right to the banks of the Odiel river, where a viewpoint stands [4]. This viewpoint offers a magnificent perspective over the port of Huelva, which span from the bridge over the Odiel river to the left, to the Estadio Colombino football pitch, and includes the shipbuilding yards, the fishing ports, the canoeing dock, the loading bay and the metal structure of the Rio Tinto Pier. It is, without a doubt, a unique view.

The salt ponds

The trail goes back a short section and turns left, over the highest wall that runs parallel to the shore [5]. This area has been rewilded with tamarisk, mastic and other shrubs for soil consolidation purposes. To the right stand again the crystallization halls, and the vegetation on the walls is adapted to the highly saline environment (halophile plants) such as the Limoniastrum monopetalum, with its muted green leaves which, in spring, blooms with spectacular mauve flowers that light up the entire marsh.



This plant is considered "the joy and pride of marches", its spectacular flowers fill with colour an otherwise monochromatic and drab landscape.

At the end of the wall there is a field where a shed [6] stands and is used as the interpretation centre for the traditional salt ponds. This plain was used to store the salt for further transportation. The path continues taking a wall which runs parallel to the previous one, but is a little lower. This section of the trail is surrounded by the typical marshland vegetation. A little before the end of this wall, you must make a U-turn to go back to the starting point, ending your route. When taking the road, you may stop at the bird spotting point located at the end of the path that starts at the other side of the road.



The plants growing in these salt marshes are perfectly adapted to this hostile environment. Some exude salt through their leaves while others simple prevent salt from entering their cells.



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|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Landmark (see text) | Salinas de Bacuta Trail |
| Interpretive panel | Other trails in the natural park |
| Recreational area | Road |
| Visitor's Centre | Electricity network |
| Viewpoint | Path |
| Observatory | Marismas del Odiel |