

## GOOD PRACTICE



Accessible Facility



Walk on the marked paths



Please avoid making noise



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Please respect private property



The capture of animals is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Fishing is prohibited



Plant collecting is not allowed



Access with motor vehicles is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112

HUELVA

PARAJE NATURAL  
Marismas de  
Isla Cristina

## MORE INFORMATION

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## OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



### ROUTE

Linear

### LENGTH (OUTWARD)

0.8 km

### ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

20 min

### DIFFICULTY

Low - Trail accessible for persons with reduced mobility.

### TYPE OF TRAIL

Path or Trail

### LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Wetland landscape (Marshland Windmill Route).

### SHADE

Little

### SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing.

### PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Huelva / Isla Cristina

### SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

N.º 998

### START / END COORDINATES

37° 13' 14" N, 7° 19' 11" W

37° 13' 20" N, 7° 19' 43" W



## HOW TO GET THERE

From the A-49 towards Portugal, take exit 122 towards Isla Cristina, which takes us on the N-431. Stay on this road for some 350m towards Ayamonte, at the intersection take the A-5150 and stay on it for 3 km, passing Pozo del Camino to reach the start of the trail, just before Isla Cristina.



## PARKING

There is no parking. The start of the trail is close to the town centre and parking is available there a short walk away.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

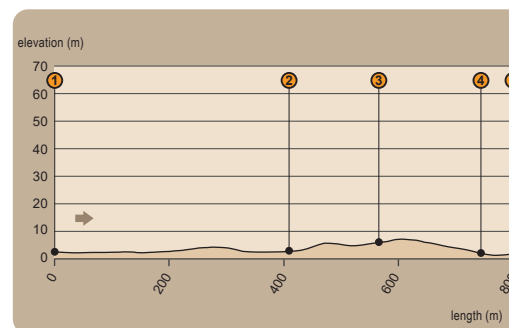
It is not possible to access the trail by public transport. The principal company running regular local bus routes in the area is DAMAS SA (959 256 900; [www.damas-sa.es](http://www.damas-sa.es))



## OTHER TRAILS

Nearby trails include the marked Laguna del Prado trail, which runs along the Huelva - Ayamonte Greenway; and the Salina del Duque trail.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### MAXIMUM GRADIENT

6 m

### MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

1 m

### MINIMUM ALTITUDE

7 m



## TRADITIONAL FISHING IN THE ESTUARY

The traditional form of extracting fish from the estuary is known as *despesque*. It basically consists of extracting fish trapped in the nooks and crannies of the salt marshes when the sea water evaporates after the salt is extracted. The practices emerged as a secondary activity to salt production.

To remove the fish, a net is dragged from one end of the cross section or *chiquero*, small ponds or pools to which the fish are diverted depending on their size, to the other. This work can be carried out on foot or with the help of small keelboats depending on the depth of the pool. The estuary empties very slowly, which results in the fish ending up in the same place at the main gate. The most common estuary species are sole, mullet, sea bream and sea bass and eel, as they can tolerate the high salt levels. In the *caños*, which are less salty, several types of prawns can be harvested including *langostinos*, *camarones* and *quisquillas* as well as crabs, clams and squid and more.

In the past, this operation was conducted after the extraction of the salt in Autumn and the seafood was consumed as part of festival marking the end of the salt harvest. There is evidence that the method was used as far back as in Roman times. Today, these marshes are among the few places where it is still used.

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

PARAJE NATURAL  
Marismas de  
Isla Cristina



Molino Mareal de  
Pozo del Camino



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



## Trail Molino Mareal de Pozo del Camino

### Coastline Greenway



Our route begins at the crossing of the Coastal Greenway with the towns of Isla Cristina and Pozo del Camino [1], following the Huelva- Ayamonte railway line. The route runs alongside the marsh and if you look at its structure [2] of a succession of estuaries and drainage channels you can see the effects of the coming and going of the tide. The branches and channels maintain permanent communication with the ocean. The meeting of the different waters with different levels of salinity results in a wealth of nutrients and life, a refuge for many species of extraordinary flora and fauna adapted to the changing conditions of the environment. Molluscs, crustaceans and estuary fish serve as food for a multitude of birds (redshanks, avocets, Eurasian spoonbills, dabchicks, egrets and Kentish plover, etc.).



Some four hundred metres from the start, we cross a small asphalt gap of the area of La Estación, and we continue along the Litoral Greenway. This second part of the trail runs along an old railway ditch [3],

where you can see the remains of old infrastructures: containing walls and masonry buttresses, completely integrated between the vegetation that covers the banks. Pines, mulberry trees and fig trees will accompany you on this section.



### The salt of life

Where the vegetation ends, a new marsh opens up and with it the traditional smell of fishing and saltpetre are intensified by the westerly ocean air. There are still traditional salt holdings [4] and their star product is flower of salt, a salt that crystallises on the very surface or the seawater, in the crystallization pools of the salt marsh. It constitutes a thin, delicate layer and must be collected by artisan methods that require great precision and delicacy. The mineral properties and high gastronomic value make the flower of salt, the gourmet salt par excellence. The salt purification operation, which needs clean water channelled through the different pools of the salt marsh, is the origin of the despesque method of catching fish in the estuary.



### The tidal mill

The dirt track we have taken so far turns into a paved path over these last few metres, leading us to the old tidal mill [5], which marks the end of the trail.

The mills ensured the work using a dam built on the marsh. At high tide, the dam fills with seawater, creating a reservoir referred to as a caldera. When the level fell sufficiently at low tide, the mill opened its floodgates that allow the water to pass from the caldera to the interior of the mill.



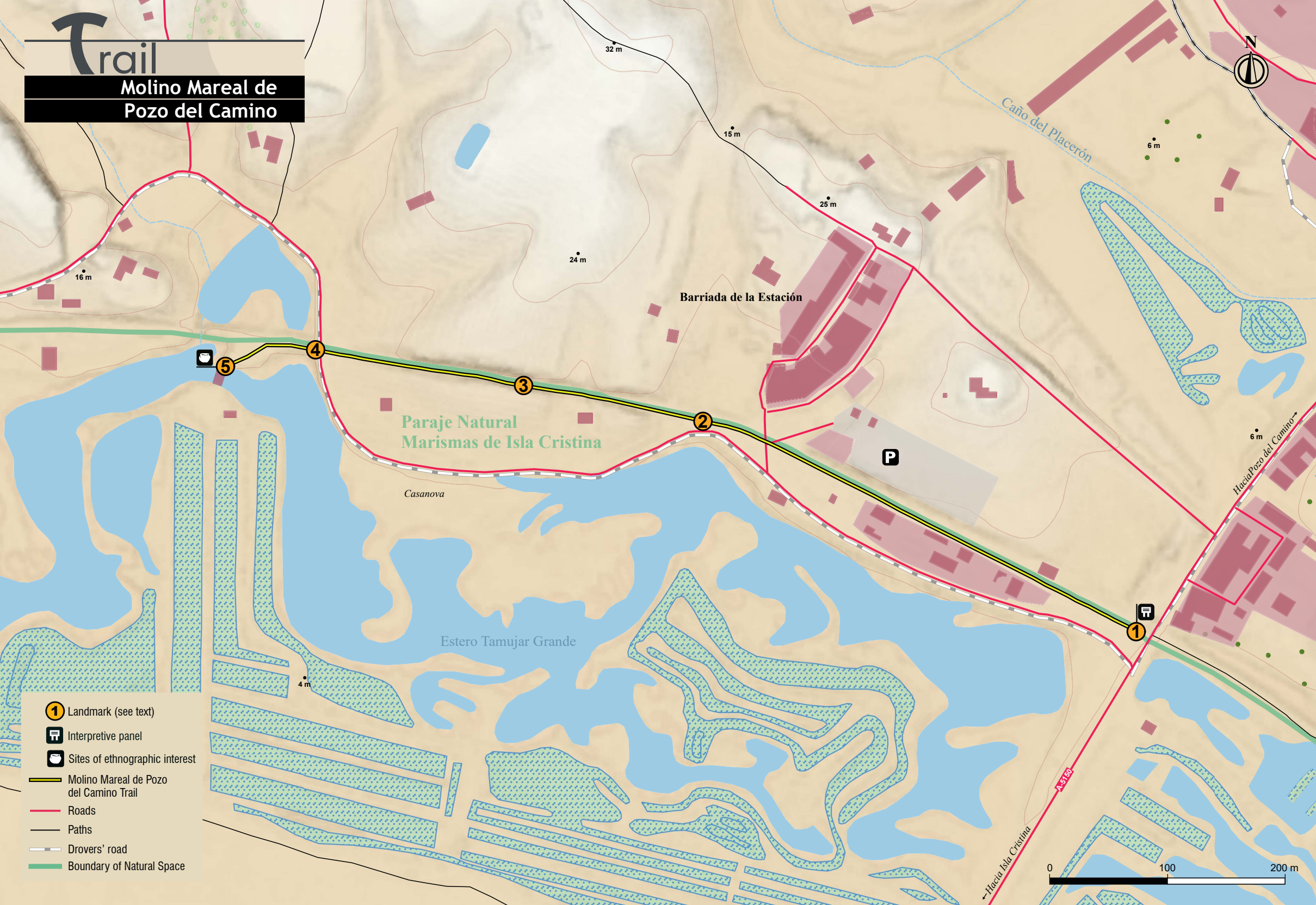
The circulation of this water generated the energy to move the heavy stones of the millstone. The Pozo del Camino Tidal Mill was used to mill cereals and



produce fish meal which was used to fertilise the fields. More recently, the ruins of the building have been reconstructed to house an interpretation centre of the marsh and its traditional uses.



# Molino Mareal de Pozo del Camino



- ① Landmark (see text)
- 🏠 Interpretive panel
- 🏠 Sites of ethnographic interest
- Molino Mareal de Pozo del Camino Trail
- Roads
- Paths
- Drivers' road
- Boundary of Natural Space

