

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



CÁDIZ-HUELVA
SEVILLA
DOÑANA
PARQUE NACIONAL
PARQUE NATURAL

MORE INFORMATION

Palacio del Acebrón Visitors' Centre. Finca La Rocina.
Carretera A-483 El Rocio-Matalascañas.
El Rocio, Almonte. Huelva. Tel. 671 59 31 38.
ventanadelvisitante.

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

DOÑANA
PARQUE NACIONAL
PARQUE NATURAL

Trail

Ribetehilo



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



NATURA 2000



Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura



Red Española de Reservas de la Biosfera



Ramsar

ROUTE

Circular

LENGTH

2,4 km

ESTIMATED TIME

50 minutes

DIFFICULTY

Low

TYPE OF TRAIL

Wooden walkway

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Lagoon with presence of bogs Mild slopes with pine repopulated forests. Scrubland and monte blanco (fields covered in *Halimium halimifolium*), strawberry trees and European fan palm. Water birds and birds of prey.

SHADE

Scant

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Huelva / Almonte

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1017 - Matalascañas Norte

START / END COORDINATES

6° 39' 38,09" O – 37° 8' 2,39" N



HOW TO GET THERE

From Almonte, take road HU-4200, to the south-west until reaching Los Cabezudos. Cross this forest village and take the road to El Abalarío. After about 5 km, you will find the start of the trail.



PARKING

There is a car park with capacity for 50 vehicles.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

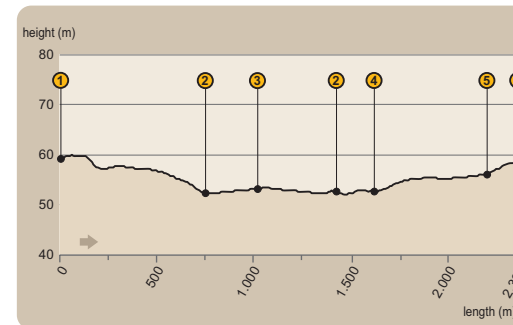
Regular buses in the area are mainly operated by the company Damas SA (tel. 959 256900). The nearest train station is Huelva. Check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 912 320 320).



OTHER TRAILS

From the A-494 road, you can access the Cuesta Maneli and El Jaral Lagoon Trail, as well as the Dunar Park which has three additional trails.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

8 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

60 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

52 m

LINE OF LAGOONS

From end of the 19th century, wetlands underwent transformations resulting in their rapid vanishing due to diminishing rainfalls, temperature rises, and later on, human action. This process was especially intense in the Doñana environment: a large number of the lagoons disappeared, together with the vegetation that was dependent upon them.

Believed to be insalubrious, unhealthy environments, activities in them were limited to extractive activities such as livestock farming, gathering herbs and berries, charcoal manufacturing or hunting. It was not until the mid-20th century that human intervention was planned with the goal of draining them for the purposes of economic development as it was understood at the time.



In line with this principles, large plantations of southern blue gum or river red gum, two *Eucalyptus* species, were created to meet the demands of the cellulose industry in the area, as well as repopulated stone pines, that, besides providing pine nuts to be harvested, consolidated the sandy soils, and new areas, considered wasteland, were repopulated by building new towns such as Bodegones, El Abalarío or Los Cabezudos.

Luckily, some bogs, such as those in Ribetehilos, managed to survive and keep generating peat, which is the result of the slow decaying of organic matter of vegetable origin in these highly acidic, low-oxygen waters.



Floating on the walkway

The trail starts in the car park just off the road that links the villages of El Abalarío and Los Cabezudos (see [1] on the map).

A convenient wooden walkway will lead you across a first mass of Eucalyptus and, further on, pines, planted either during the forest repopulations carried out in the 1930s and 1940s, or in more recent ones, with the purposes of consolidating the soil and recovering the original scrubland.



Along the way, you will see specimens of European fan palm, the only native palm species. Due to their small size, they are used as a shelter by other species trying to escape predators and seeking refuge from the sun.

Throughout the trail, you will find explanation panels about different issues of interest: repopulations with pine and *Eucalyptus* species, the bog and its carnivorous plants, strawberry tree and its berries, European fan palm and its uses, geological strata and the colour of sand, or the restoration of the landscape and the vision for the future, which is slowly becoming a reality, as can be seen in some sections of the trail.



One in many

After stretching for six hundred metres, the walkway arrives at a crossroads [2].

The path to the left will be taken on the way back. Now, keep straight on until reaching the Galápago lagoon, the first of the string of lagoons that have given Ribetehilo its name.

The trail continues along the lagoon banks for about three hundred metres [3]. In the season in which the lagoon retains water, its banks are the home of birds such as common coot and little grebe. In the summer, it is dominated by the presence of heath, furze or berry trees.



Birds of prey, such as short-toed snake eagle, booted eagle or even Spanish imperial eagle, fly high over the lagoon system. They use high branches and vantage points from where they control their hunting grounds.

The southern bank, along which you are walking, is very different from the northern bank, covered in *Halimium halimifolium* and dotted with rosemary, lavender and thyme, and called monte blanco because of its predominantly white colour.



The way back

On the way back, you will reach the aforementioned crossroads. This time, turn right in order to walk along the western side of the lagoon, until you find a road to the right that leads to the La Mediana village, and, to the left, the road from El Abalarío to Los Cabezudos where this trail began [4].

After some five hundred metres, at a young, repopulated pine patch turn left to get to the car park [5].

A different trail, called El Jaral Lagoon Trail, crosses the vast flatlands of El Abalarío and its extensive pine woods and leads to the Asperillo cliffs and beaches.



Between November and December, strawberry trees are laden with this season's flowers and last season's berries. Strawberry trees were chosen to help recover this landscape due to the fact that they were a native species

much appreciated by many animals for its red, juicy berries, a treat in this relatively barren land.



The trail follows a rosary of lagoons linked by a string, Ribetehilo (whose approximately translation would be "the riverside string") marks the encounter of two different geological substrata. This trail runs precisely along the limit of these two substrata, which in the past was a watercourse for the waters that emerged to the surface, albeit today it is barely recognizable.

Walking along this convenient wooden walkway allows you to get close to one of these lagoons, the Galápago lagoon, and the vegetation that has been intended to resemble the appearance of this area in the past.



Trail Ribetehilo



- 1** Landmark (see text)
- P** Parking
-  Picnic area
-  Interpretive panel
-  Bench

-  Ribetehilo Trail
-  Road
-  Path

