

GOOD PRACTICE



Please avoid making noise



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked trails



Accessible facility



Capturing animals is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Fishing is prohibited



Plant collecting is not permitted

It is forbidden to drive on the path with any type of vehicle that is not related to the mobility of people with disabilities.

Emergency phone: 112

MÁLAGA

RESERVA NATURAL
Laguna de Fuente de Piedra

MORE INFORMATION

José Antonio Valverde Visitor Centre. Monte Público "La Laguna de Fuente de Piedra", Fuente de Piedra (Málaga); Tel. 952 712 554.

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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear and exclusively pedestrian

• LENGTH (ONE WAY)

2,3 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (ONE WAY)

1 hour

• DIFFICULTY

Low (Accessible path)

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Compacted path and footbridge

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Lagoons, halophilic vegetation and Mediterranean salt steppe.

• SHADE

None

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Bring binoculars, drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Málaga / Fuente de Piedra

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1023 - Antequera

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 8' 1.65" N – 4° 44' 35.41" O

37° 8' 1.19" N – 4° 45' 37.95" O



HOW TO GET THERE

From the A92, take exit 132 signposted Alameda/Humilladero, Fte. Piedra y Laguna de Fte. Piedra. Cross the village of Fuente de Piedra following the signs to the Laguna and just before entering the car park of the José Antonio Valverde visitor centre, on the right, there is a path that will take you to the footbridge where the trail starts. You can also access the trail via a path that starts from the Cerro del Palo viewpoint.



PARKING

There is a large car park near the José Antonio Valverde Visitor Centre.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

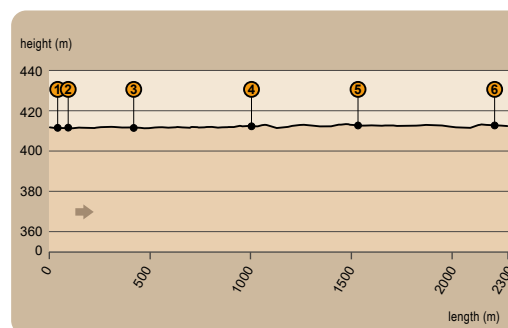
The main company running regular bus routes in the area is ALSA (www.alsa.es). From the bus stop in the area of Fuente de Piedra, you will have to walk 2 km (about 20 minutes) to reach the José Antonio Valverde Visitor Centre and the start of the trail.



OTHER TRAILS

The Laguneto trail is also passes through the nature reserve.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

2 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

413 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

411 m



THE SOUNDS OF THE LAGOON

Silence is the first thing that envelops us when we arrive at the Laguna de Fuente de Piedra. A silence that is not exactly silent, but stems from the absence of urban noise to which we have become accustomed. As our senses open up and we move deeper into the Nature Reserve, especially at first light and dusk, we are met by a series of sounds, in increasing uproar, laden with information and meaning for the trained ear.

Tens of thousands of birds, each with its own specific melody and particular needs, make life in Fuente de Piedra sound different depending on the season and the type of year. The trumpeting of a multitude of swimming and diving species (ducks, pochards, little grebes, great crested grebes, etc.) can be heard loudly in wet years, when the lagoon reaches a good water level. The curious and penetrating steppe sounds of the stone curlew, kestrel or lark are best appreciated in dry periods. And in periods with average water levels, what predominates is the joyful chatter of waders (plovers, avocets, black-winged stilts, redshanks, sandpipers,...).

But if there is one sound that characterises the Laguna de Fuente de Piedra it is undoubtedly that of its indisputable protagonist: the flamingo. Although they can be seen and heard all year round in the lagoon, it is in spring that 20,000 breeding pairs of flamingos gather. They use the dykes and ponds of the old salt works to build nests from which a single chick will hatch. The calls of these birds brings numerous participants together every year who collaborate in this scientific activity.

MÁLAGA

RESERVA NATURAL
Laguna de Fuente de Piedra

Trail

Las Albinas



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul



The destination of inland waters is not always the rivers that lead to the sea. Sometimes they flow inland into closed basins (endorheic basins), forming wetlands whose evaporation completes the water cycle. This is the origin of the Laguna de Fuente de Piedra which, with 1365 hectares distributed over fields of cereal crops and olive groves, is one of the most extensive saltwater lagoon complexes on the Iberian Peninsula. This area is of vital importance for 170 bird species and is the most important breeding site in the Mediterranean and North-West Africa for the flamingo. An enclave of special ecological, cultural, educational and scientific relevance.

An oasis of nature in the midst of a landscape shaped by humans

The shallow relief over which the immense surface of the Laguna de Fuente de Piedra extends gives rise to shallow waters, very exposed to the wind, with a strong salinity and a marked seasonal character. These characteristics, together with the fact that it is part of a network that connects different natural areas, make it a real oasis in the middle of a landscape shaped by humans that contributes to the conservation, proliferation and spread of numerous animal species.

The Las Albinas trail runs along the northern sector of the lagoon, crosses the mouth of the Santillán and Mari Fernández streams and ends at the Curva de la Vicaria, where there is an observatory and a viewpoint. The route will allow you to get to know the lagoon and its changing dynamics, to distinguish different habitats and to see a multitude of birds from different environments: marsh, salt marsh, steppe, etc.

Walking on water

The starting point [1] is in the area known as Los Juncare, near a wooden footbridge [2] surrounded by tamarisk and reeds, which you will use to literally walk over the wetland. This area is flooded with treated water from the Fuente de Piedra wastewater treatment plant and rainwater from the Laguneto del Pueblo. The water from Los Juncare flows down an old channel to the main basin of the Laguna de Fuente de Piedra. The circulation of water through this immense system of “connected basins” improves its quality, recovers the ancient marshland habitat of Los Juncare and allows you to see flamingos, ducks, snipes, black-winged stilts and other birds close up.



Among pignuts, reeds and tamarisk groves, the trail leaves the footbridge to enter an open, asymmetrical, steppe-like landscape [3]. In reality, the two landscapes are separated by a wall, which was built in the 1970s to prevent the lagoon water from flooding the crops. Walking along the wall itself, on the right are the yellows and greens of a uniform cereal steppe and on the left a more complex landscape, formed by a natural habitat of halophilic species such as seepweed, turkey berry and the omnipresent tamarisk, perfectly adapted to the stresses of saltwater. Above the crop fields there is a covered tower, an old building that has been fitted out as a nesting place for steppe birds. It is currently used by barn owls and common kestrels and it is hoped that in the future the lesser kestrel will also nest there.

The changing landscape

Over five hundred metres, a row of strikingly tall reeds indicates the nearby Santillán stream [4]. This stream is the main tributary of the Laguna and usually carries water all year round. After crossing its mouth surrounded by marshy vegetation, the trail reaches the Mari Fernández stream [5]. Its waters flow into the lagoon and flood the area near the path in wet years. In dry years and in the dry seasons of normal years, it functions as a steppe. Something similar happens in the rest of the Nature Reserve, where annual and inter-annual climatic variations transform the landscape in such a way that they determine which plants and birds can be found each time.

This makes Las Albinas a singular, chameleon-like and multifaceted trail that, like the



multiple designs of a kaleidoscope, transforms with the seasons and the type of year. You can walk along the path at the very edge of a splendid lagoon more than a metre and a half deep at one moment, and at another, find yourself facing the immensity of a salt marsh that disappears into the horizon.



From the stream, the trail heads towards the Curva de la Vicaria [6]. The observatory, which is high up to improve the view and facilitate bird watching, is the first thing you will come across. Then, very close by, you will reach the viewpoint, where a panoramic sign explains elements of the landscape. Just behind, in a space in the middle of a bend between the old road and the present one, the original Mediterranean vegetation (mastic trees, holm oaks, wild olive trees, etc.) has been recovered.



The end of the path [7] is just a few metres away, next to a parking area. To learn more about the different and valuable habitats generated by the constant change of animals and plants, to find out about the strategic observation points and, in short, to get the best out of your visit, you can go to the José Antonio Valverde Visitor Centre.



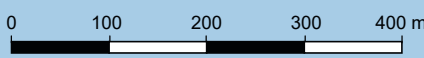
Trail

Las Albinas



Zona de protección de la Reserva Natural Laguna de Fuente de Piedra

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Landmark (see text) | Las Albinas Trail |
| Georesources | Otros senderos del parque natural |
| Visitor Centre | Road |
| Viewpoint | Path |
| Observatory | Drovers' road |
| Trail | Natural Space |
| Parking | Railway |



Laguna de Fuente de Piedra

Jose Antonio Valverde
 Del Laguneto
 Cerro del Palo
 Laguna de Las Palomas

Del Laguneto

Del Laguneto

Fuente de Piedra

Bobadilla-Granada

Las Albinas

-Málaga

Castillejo

Los Juncares

El Origen

La Culebra

Panes

Llano del Soldado

Arroyo de Mari Fernandez

Arroyo Santillán

420 m

412 m

427 m

415 m

411 m

A-7279