

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

Anastasio Senra Visitor's Centre.
Ctra. del Dique Juan Carlos I, km 3. Huelva.
Tel. 959 50 90 11.
ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARAJE NATURAL Marismas del Odiel



Calatilla de Bacuta



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Production and photography: Grupo Entoma, Federación Andaluza de Montañismo and Environment and Water Agency

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



NATURA 2000



Red Española de Reservas de la Biosfera



Ramsar

• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

0,8 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

20 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

This trail follows the tracing of one of the division walls of the crystallization pools in the Calatilla salt ponds.

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

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

• SHADE

None

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Vehicles are not allowed behind the gate that marks the start of the trail.

• 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' 5,15" N – 6° 58' 7,84" O

37° 14' 47,29" N – 6° 58' 26,57" 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 Landscape



PARKING

Vehicles are not allowed behind the gate that marks the start of the trail. However, you can park in the esplanade by at the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

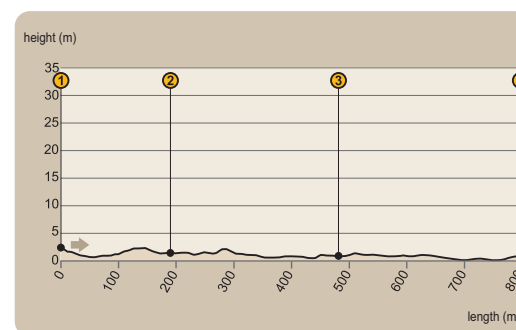
Regular buses are mainly operated by the company Damas, S.A. Telephone: 902 11 44 92
www.damas-sa.es



OTHER TRAILS

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

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

1 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

2 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

1 m



Salt is loaded by means of heavy machinery

THE SALT INDUSTRY

From ancient times, humans have used salt to preserve food. Phoenicians, Romans or Arabs salted their meat or fish, as evidenced by the remains found in the archaeological excavations made in the area.

Recently, the Bacuta traditional salt ponds have been recovered as a heritage element, while the Aragonesas industrial salt ponds are also in operation. The traditional salt ponds have a lower environmental impact because they only use renewable energy sources such as tidal, wind or solar power, but they are much more labour-intensive since both the collection and the transportation were made by hand. Salt obtained was intended for human consumption and for the use in the meat and fish canning industry. In turn, the industrial salt ponds of the Aragonesas company, just a few metres away from the traditional ponds, are highly mechanized, use pumps and heavy machinery and obtain a higher output at a lower cost. Their product is destined to Huelva's basic industry. Do not forget that salt is sodium chloride and both sodium and chlorine are frequently used to obtain industrial products.



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Low tide

The trail starts just by the Anastasio Senra interpretation centre, which is the best place to park your car. A footpath goes slightly downhill until it is just above one of the salt ponds walls. At the entrance, you will see the initial panel, just a few metres before a gate that prevents vehicles from passing (see [1] on the map).



sometimes in the company of heron or little egrets. Grebes, seagulls and cormorants also nest and feed here.

Continue along the perimeter track of the salt ponds until arriving at the Canal de la Mojarrera [4] canal. From this spot you can see, just in front of you the Isla de Enmedio, classified as Natural Reserve, and the home of one of the largest spoonbill colonies in Europe. This white-feathered wader has a very particular spoon-like beak (hence its name), with which it surveys shallow waters for small crustaceans, insects, etc. to feed on. They usually go feeding in groups, in a V-shaped formation.



Start of the trail

martima, wild asparagus that turns red in autumn or *Limoniastrum monopetalum*, with its bright flowers in spring. During the low tide, the more bottom of the marsh is uncovered, and you may see a large number of crustaceans running around, especially fiddler crabs, which are particularly easy to identify because males seem to be waving hello with their giant claw. Many shorebirds also wait for the low tide to find themselves something to eat, looking around in the mire with their long, thin beaks. Among the latter, redshanks, curlews and black-winged stilts share this territory.



Every summer, a canoe service connects the port of Huelva and the town of Punta Umbria crossing the waters of this natural landscape

The smell of the sea is everywhere. At both sides of the road. The path goes between two masses of salt water: the Caño de la Calatilla or Caño de Bacuta to the left and a series of crystallization pools from the industrial salt ponds to the right. To the left, next to the water, the typical vegetation of salt tidal marshes: large fields of *Spartina*

High tide

The open horizon offers a wide view over the landscape [3]. The salt waters of the marshes hide a red treasure: artemia, or brine shrimp, a tiny crustacean on which flamingos feed and which are the cause of their flashy pink colour. Until a few years ago, flamingos only flew here to feed, but over the last years a few of them have stayed to breed and a small colony has been formed. Year after year, the number of flamingo specimens that nest in the marshes increase. Along the trail, you may spot them feeding on the shallow waters of the salt marshes,



This is the end of the trail. Now, you only have to go back the same path to the starting point. In the way back, you can enjoy the views over the city of Huelva and its port, one of the most important ports in Andalusia.



This trail progresses among a landscape of reed and marshland, highly influenced by tides and modelled by the human use of its salt resources in the form of salt ponds. This wide view offers a good perspective of this natural landscape and allows to appreciate this very ancient trade. However, the human made transformations have also been of use for the flashiest inhabitants of the marshes: flamingos. Every day, flocks of flamingos fly every day to these marshes to feed, from as far as Fuentedepiedra (Málaga), and the number of such birds nesting in the marshes increase each year.

Trail

Calatilla de Bacuta



Paraje Natural Marismas del Odiel

Salinas de Huelva

Canal de la Mojarrera

Salinas de Bacuta

Salinas de Bacuta

Salinas de Bacuta

Espigón

Observatorio de uso científico Salinas del pesquero

- Calatilla de Bacuta Trail
- Other trails
- Path
- Electricity network
- Road

- Landmark (see text)
- Interpretive panel
- Observatory

0 50 100 m