

GOOD PRACTICE



Accessible Facility



Walk on the marked paths



Please avoid making noise



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



The capture of animals is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Camping is prohibited



Plant collecting is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112



CÁDIZ-HUELVA
SEVILLA

DOÑANA
PARQUE NACIONAL
PARQUE NATURAL

MORE INFORMATION

El Acebuche Visitor's Centre.
Ctra A-483 Km.38,7 Matalascañas-21760 (Almonte, Huelva). Tel. 959 439 629
CVAcebuche.pnDonana.cagpds@juntadeandalucia.es

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

DOÑANA
PARQUE NACIONAL
PARQUE NATURAL

Trail

Cuesta Maneli

CÁDIZ-HUELVA-SEVILLA



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

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



ROUTE

Linear

LENGTH (OUTWARD)

1.3 km

ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

30 min

DIFFICULTY

Medium - Low/ Trail accessible for persons with reduced mobility

TYPE OF TRAIL

Wooden walkway with viewpoint Asperillo Cliffs Natural Monument (end of trail). Access to beach by staircase.

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Asperillo Dunes. Vegetation adapted to the sands. Cliff and beach. Possible traces of mammals and reptiles in the sand. Seagulls and dunlins on the beach.

SHADE

None

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and sun protection and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Huelva / Almonte

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

Nº 1017

START / END COORDINATES

37° 4' 49" N, 6° 41' 13" W

37° 4' 13" N, 6° 41' 18" W



HOW TO GET THERE

From Matalascañas, take the A-494 towards Mazagón at kilometre point 40,2. The trail branches begins on the left-hand side of the road.



PARKING

There is a carpark for approximately 300 vehicles and spaces for persons with reduced mobility at the start of the trail. In the summer season there is a charge for use of the carpark.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

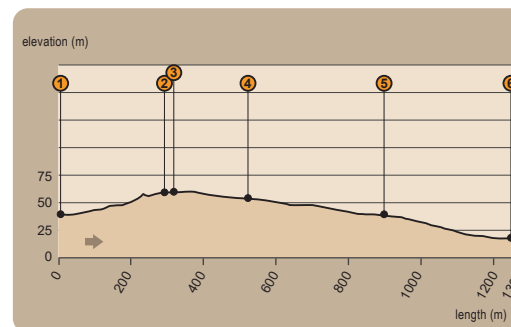
It is not possible to access the trail by public transport. The principal bus company operating regular lines in the area is Damas S.A. (tel. 959 25 69 00). The nearest train station is Huelva (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 912 320 320). The start of the trail can be accessed by bicycle from the El Asperillo cycle tourism route, which runs between Matalascañas and Mazagón.



OTHER TRAILS

The Sendero Laguna del Jaral and Sendero de Ribetehilo trails are accessed from the same road. The Sendero Dunar in Matalascañas and the Senderos Laguna del Acebuche and Lagunas del Huerto and Las Pajas on the A-483. El Asperillo cycle tourism route, between Matalascañas and Mazagón.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

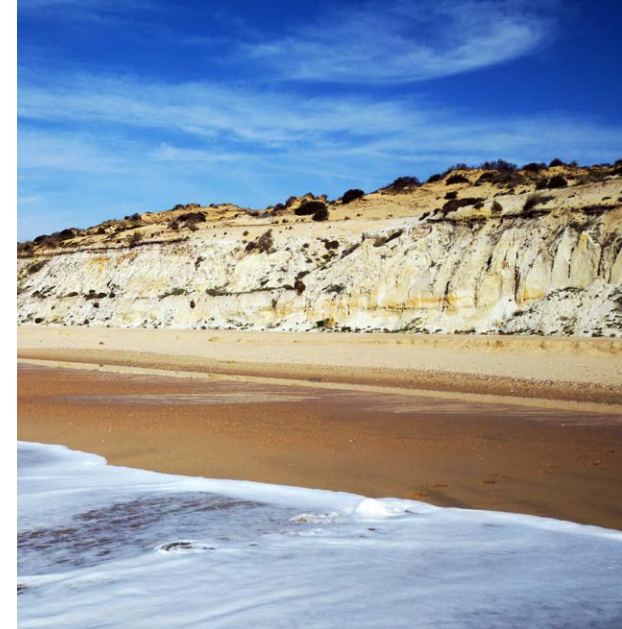
45,00 m

MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

58,68 m

MINIMUM ALTITUDE

13,68 m



ASPERILLO CLIFFS NATURAL MONUMENT

The continued erosion of the sea against the sands deposited over thousands of years and the subsequent compacting and elevation of sediments created the Asperillo Cliffs. In November 2001, 12 hectares of this scarp of fossil dunes were declared a Natural Monument. At some points they reach 30 metres in heights, making them the tallest sandy cliffs in Europe. They are topped with an old, fixed dune system climbing to over 100 metres.

If you look closely, you can make out the main processes that have moulded them. Waves, wind and infiltrated freshwater carve gullies in the cliffs in a continuous process of destruction and creation. The oldest materials are between fourteen and fifteen thousand years old. The ochre orange tones of the walls are due to the goethite (an iron oxide that, along with quartz, is one of the principal components of these sands). The greyish tones are due to the peat that grows on the cliffs, increasing the number of species that can survive in this ecosystem.



Cuesta Maneli

The Cuesta Maneli trail runs through the entire dune system, offering us the opportunity to cross one of the most spectacular landscapes of Doñana and discover its history first-hand. The route ends at the viewpoint of the Asperillo Cliffs Natural Monument, offering a panoramic view towards the Atlantic Ocean. Remember that you are entering a fragile area of great ecological and landscape value.



Cuesta Maneli hill

The trail begins at the carpark for persons with reduced mobility [1] and the entire route runs along a wooden walkway build after the old one was destroyed in the fire of 2017. The route never leaves the walkway; merely stepping on the dunes would trigger a chain of erosive processes that could harm fauna and impede the germination of plants.

The first three hundred metres sees the trail rise along the face of the sands, surmounting the dune until it reaches the highest points, at a height of almost sixty metres, making it a natural watchtower over Doñana. Although the trail remains a climb, the reconstruction works on the walkway have reduced the gradient considerably. If we look back before starting the descent [2], we can enjoy a panoramic view of the Abalarío, which helps us place the Médano del Asperillo in the territory overall.

The north-western heart of Doñana

Everything in sight, from the ocean to the south to the to the area around the Rocina stream as it is lost on the horizon to the north, was borne out of the Guadalquivir estuary. The Atlantic sands, dragged to the sea by the king of rivers, penetrate towards the interior in successive canopies by the southeast winds. They were deposited, one on top of the other, for over 10,000 years, creating up to eight layers or wind units. The most recent layers do not fully cover the previous ones, making it possible to recognise five layers of different ages on the terrain. The territory shaped by these layers of sand is known as the Abalarío and constitutes the north-western heart of Doñana. And where does the Médano del Asperillo dune fit into this puzzle? The Asperillo Dune system, the origins of which go back 2,500 years, constitute the youngest layers of the Abalarío.

Just metres from the viewpoint we find the first information panel [3].



The heartbeat of life

As we advance further into the dunes, the pine trees make way for savines, junipers and Portuguese crowberry [4], rockrose, flabellina etc. Some of these plants managed to survive to fire of 2017 [5]. Others are the



fruit of the subsequent restoration. All reveal different adaptations to the stressful conditions of the dune environment: instability of soil, ocean winds, burial, insolation with no relief and corrosive exposure to marine spray.



The different levels of tolerance to these conditions, which varies with distance from the ocean, causes the transition from one band of vegetation to the next, creating the different natural habitats of the dune system. The flora of this ecosystem provides food and refuge for numerous animals, usually elusive, who hid amid the vegetation and even beneath the very walkway we tread. Although it is not easy to catch sight of them, if we look carefully around the trail, we can likely make out traces and signs they leave on the sand.

The murmur of the sea and the breeze tell us we are approaching the cliff and the end of the trail. From the viewpoint of the Natural Monument [6], it is likely we can make out common terns and seagulls flying over the waves, or ringed plover and dunlins scampering over this immense line of virgin beach. What's certain is that you'll feel the marine wind soaking the senses; the same wind that helped create what we now know as the Natural Space of Doñana.



Once the trail ends, if you wish, you may descend to the beach via a staircase that's part of the walkway.

The Médano del Asperillo is one of the most important coastal dune complexes in Europe, a space of ocean and wind, whose sands reveal millennia of history and even the origins of Doñana. In the fight for survival, the prodigious adaptation of the plants to the extreme conditions of this sea of dunes made a paradise of what, without them, would be just sand and wind. A struggle that more than ever, after the fire that destroyed more than 8,000 hectares of the Doñana Natural Park in 2017, including the area through which this trail runs, shows us the extraordinary courage of life to find a way to survive, even in the most adverse conditions.

Trail

Cuesta Maneli



Océano Atlántico

- Landmark (see text)
- Parking
- Interpretive panel
- Viewpoint
- Punto de información
- Trail
- Information point

- Cuesta Maneli Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Roads
- Paths
- Natural Area
- Natural monument



1 Landmark (see text)

— Cuesta Maneli Trail

— Other trails of the natural park

— Roads

— Paths

— Natural Area

— Natural monument

0 100 200 300 400 m