

## Entornos naturales, Doñana y Marismas del Odiel/

**Patrimonio de la humanidad/** El Parque Nacional de Doñana fue declarado en 1994 Patrimonio de la Humanidad, la distinción de mayor categoría que la Unesco concede a un espacio natural o cultural. Se reconoce de esta manera la singularidad extraordinaria de este conjunto de ecosistemas onubenses y la importancia de su preservación para futuras generaciones.

Considerado uno de los entornos naturales más importantes del mundo, el territorio de Doñana engloba más de 100.000 hectáreas de espacio protegido, localizado casi en su totalidad en la provincia de Huelva, si bien también incluye una pequeña porción de las de Cádiz y Sevilla. Dentro de este conjunto territorial se encuentra el Parque Nacional, la zona de mayor protección, que alberga 50.720 hectáreas en la margen derecha del río Guadalquivir y su estuario en el Océano Atlántico. Doñana es un mosaico orgánico que incluye lagunas, playas, dunas móviles y fijas, cotos y marismas, así como diversas zonas de transición. Estos diferentes espacios salvajes albergan una

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## Natural locations, Doñana y Marismas del Odiel/

**World heritage site/** In 1994, Doñana National Park was declared a World Heritage Site - the highest distinction bestowed by the UNESCO upon a natural or cultural space. This status reflects the extraordinary uniqueness of this group of ecosystems in Huelva and the importance of preserving them for future generations.

Considered one of the world's most important natural locations, the territory of Doñana encompasses over 100,000 hectares of protected land, almost all of which is located within the province of Huelva, although a small segment is shared with the neighbouring provinces of Cadiz and Seville. The specially protected National Park lies within this territory, occupying 50,720 hectares on the right-hand bank of the Guadalquivir River and its estuary on the Atlantic Ocean. Famed around the world for the diversity of its ecosystems, Doñana is an organic mosaic that includes lagoons, beaches, shifting and fixed sand dunes, reserves and salt marshes, as well as many transition areas. These different wild spaces are home to an incredibly rich variety of fauna and serve as the wintering sites of more than 300,000 waterfowl every year. Some of those bird species are seriously threatened, such as the white-headed duck, the marbled duck, the purple swamphen and the slender-billed gull. Doñana also harbours

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riquísimas variedades de fauna y constituyen el refugio de invernada de más de 300.000 aves acuáticas al año. Doñana preserva también dos de las especies animales en mayor riesgo de extinción de la fauna europea, el águila imperial y el lince ibérico.

Estrechamente unido al Parque, al que rodea en casi su totalidad y con el que comparte ecosistemas, el Parque Natural de Doñana cubre una extensa región de 53.835 hectáreas que en la provincia de Huelva alberga joyas como la espectacular duna del Asperillo, los pinares y lagunas de Hinojos, que reciben miles de aves acuáticas al inundarse, y las lagunas del Abalario. A la conjunción de ambos parques, hay que añadir en la comarca otras 2.040 hectáreas más con diferentes grados de protección.

Doñana cuenta con diversas figuras de protección nacional e internacional, que incluyen su clasificación como Parque Nacional, Parque Natural, zona ZEPA, zona Ramsar, Reserva de la Biosfera y Patrimonio de la Humanidad.

## Los datos de Doñana/

- En el Parque se pueden encontrar 20 especies de peces de agua dulce, 11 de anfibios, 21 de reptiles, 37 de mamíferos no marinos y 360 de aves, de las que 127 se reproducen habitualmente entre sus fronteras.
- La combinación del Parque Nacional de Doñana y el Parque Natural de Doñana suma más de 100.000 hectáreas de espacio protegido.
- Las marismas del Guadalquivir son uno de los mayores humedales europeos y zona de invernada de más de 300.000 aves acuáticas al año.
- El Parque Nacional de Doñana es la mayor extensión europea sin trazado viario sobre asfalto.
- En Doñana habitan dos de las especies animales en mayor peligro de extinción de la fauna europea, el lince ibérico y el águila imperial.
- La zona de marisma reúne también poblaciones de varias aves acuáticas seriamente amenazadas, como la malvasía, la cerceta pardilla, el calamón y la gaviota picofina.
- Otras especies de aves, como el ánser común, llegan a concentrar en este entorno natural más de 15.000 individuos.



1. Observatorio de aves en el Paraje Natural Marismas del Odiel/ Lookout point of birds in The Odiel Salt Marshes.

2. Parque Dunar de Matalascañas/ Sand Dune Park at Matalascañas.

3. Playa de Doñana/ Doñana beach.



two of the European animal species currently facing the highest risk of extinction - the Spanish imperial eagle and the Iberian lynx, both endemic to the Iberian Peninsula.

Almost entirely surrounding the Park - with which it shares close ties and ecosystems - Doñana Natural Park extends over a vast area of 53,835 hectares. Within the province of Huelva, the park boasts many natural treasures such as the spectacular Asperillo sand dunes, the pine forests and lagoons of Hinojos (which attract thousands of waterfowl when they become inundated) and the Abalario lagoons. Apart from the areas of both parks, an additional 2,040 hectares of land in this region also enjoy varying degrees of protection.

Doñana has been declared a National Park, a Ramsar Convention site "of exceptional importance for fowl" and a ZEPA site "for the special protection of fowl." Moreover, UNESCO has also granted the National Park two notable designations - Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site.

## Basic information about Doñana/

- The following numbers of species can be found in the Park: 20 of freshwater fish, 11 of amphibians, 21 of reptiles, 37 of non-marine mammals and 360 of birds, 127 of which regularly reproduce within the park's borders.
- Doñana National Park and Doñana Natural Park combined account for more than 100,000 hectares of protected land.
- The Guadalquivir salt marshes are one of the largest wetland areas in Europe and a wintering site for more than 300,000 waterfowl every year.
- Doñana National Park is the largest extension of land without paved roads in all of Europe.
- Two of Europe's most critically endangered species live in Doñana - the Iberian lynx and the Spanish imperial eagle.
- The salt marshes are also home to populations of seriously threatened bird species such as the white-headed duck, the marbled duck, the purple swamphen and the slender-billed gull.
- The population of other bird species, such as the greylag goose, can reach up to 15,000 individual birds in this natural setting.



## Datos de interés/ Additional information

- Oficina de Información Turística de Huelva  
Tourist information office of Huelva  
T 959 650 200
- Oficina Municipal de Turismo de Almonte  
Tourist information office of Almonte  
T 959 451 503
- Oficina de Turismo de Matalascañas  
Tourist information office of Matalascañas  
T 959 430 086
- Oficina Municipal de Turismo de Moguer  
Tourist information office of Moguer  
T 959 371 898
- Oficina de Turismo de Mazagón  
Tourist information office of Mazagón  
T 663 879 634
- Oficina de Información de Punta Umbría  
Tourist information office of Punta Umbría  
T 959 495 160
- Visitas a Doñana  
Visit Doñana  
T 959 430 432
- Visitas a Marismas del Odiel  
Visit Marismas del Odiel  
T 959 524 334



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DE HUELVA

**Andalucía**

**renfe**

**Visita al Parque de Doñana/** Doñana es una enorme extensión protegida que atesora una riqueza biológica de reconocida importancia internacional. Parque Nacional, Reserva de la Biosfera y Patrimonio de la Humanidad, este territorio está formado por diferentes ecosistemas, entre los que destaca la zona de marisma del río Guadalquivir. Situado en su mayor parte en la provincia de Huelva, el conjunto natural de Doñana se enclava en una comarca de gran relevancia cultural, que tiene en la romería de El Rocío su principal señá de identidad.

El ciclo estacional es de gran importancia para el complejo y rico entramado ecológico de Doñana, cuyas características varían en las diferentes épocas del año. Primavera y otoño son especialmente propicias para disfrutar plenamente, dada la mayor probabilidad de encachamiento de las marismas, la densidad de las poblaciones de aves y la bondad del clima. Si nuestro objetivo es visitar el Parque Nacional, éste cuenta con cinco centros de visitantes ubicados en las provincias de Sevilla, Cádiz y Huelva que permanecen abiertos durante todo el año, con excepción de la semana de la romería de El Rocío y durante las fiestas navideñas. De los cinco, tres están localizados en la provincia de Huelva, en el sector occidental del parque. El acceso es libre y gratuito y allí puede recabarse toda la información necesaria para interpretar la enorme riqueza del patrimonio

natural y cultural de Doñana y conocer diferentes formas de disfrutarlo sobre el terreno: las exposiciones, los senderos señalizados y las visitas guiadas a sus diferentes ecosistemas.

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situada en las proximidades de la aldea de El Rocío. Este centro ofrece opciones divulgativas que incluyen una exposición dedicada a la romería rociera dentro de una vivienda ambientada al estilo tradicional.

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También puede disfrutarse de una proyección sobre el arroyo de La Rocina, uno de los caudales esenciales que alimenta la marisma de Doñana. Desde este centro parte el sendero costero de Matalascañas en dirección a El Rocío por la carretera A-483, que debe después abandonarse para seguir una pista de acceso de aproximadamente dos kilómetros. Este centro cuenta con una exposición permanente sobre el Parque Nacional completada por una proyección audiovisual, y de sus inmediaciones parten dos recorridos peatonales de escasa dificultad que es posible recorrer sin autorización previa. El primer sendero, denominado 'Laguna del Acebuche', de 1,5 kilómetros, recorre la orilla de esta laguna recuperada en la década de los años ochenta, refugio para ejemplares de algunas especies de aves acuáticas que permanecen en Doñana en épocas con poco agua en las marismas. El sendero 'Lagunas del Huerto y las Pajás' de 3,5 kilómetros, permite apreciar otro complejo lagunar de reciente restauración y zonas de cotos y pinares donde nidifican especies como el milano real, el águila calzada y el cernícalo vulgar.

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los seis kilómetros del Centro de Visitantes del 'Palacio del Acebún', se encuentra el tercer centro llamado 'Palacio del Acebún'. En esta antigua residencia y pabellón de caza puede visitarse una exposición etnográfica sobre Doñana que detalla el devenir histórico y cultural de la zona. De aquí parte otro sendero de 1,5 kilómetros, el llamado 'Charco del Acebún'. Este camino rodea el ensanche fluvial producido por el arroyo de La Rocina.

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No debemos olvidar que el entorno del Parque Natural,

que rodea de forma discontinua al Parque y tiene un tamaño similar,

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presenta menores restricciones y puede visitarse con mayor libertad. La coincidencia de ciertos paisajes y ecosistemas

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hacen del Parque Natural hábitat o lugar de paso de numerosas especies, como el esquivo lince ibérico. En el parque se localizan espacios tan singulares como las marismas de Hinojos, el complejo palustre de Ribetihilos o las lagunas del abalaro. Otra visita recomendada son las espectaculares dunas del Asperillo, que pueden transitarse por un recorrido de pasarelas de madera de 1,2 kilómetros denominado 'Cuesta de Maneli'. Se trata de un delicioso paseo flanqueado por pinares y una densa vegetación arbustiva que atraviesa las únicas dunas fósiles que se conservan en Doñana, para terminar en un acantilado que nos ofrece una vista del océano Atlántico.

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marismas en diferentes épocas del año. Algunas hacen de ellas

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importante cita de invernada de diversas especies de aves acuáticas. La riqueza faunística de las marismas incluye la mayor colonia de cría de espátulas del continente, que acoge alrededor de un tercio de la población europea. Las marismas son también el hábitat de garzas reales e imperiales, cigüeñas negras, grullas y flamencos, además de rapaces vinculadas a ecosistemas palustres como el águila pescadora y el aguilucho lagunero.

Este Paraje Natural cuenta con el Centro de Recepción e Interpretación Anastasio Senra ('Calatilla'), que pone a disposición del visitante diferentes recursos para conocerlo. A la red de senderos de acceso libre, que disponen de varios miradores, y las áreas interpretativas, se suma una oferta de itinerarios guiados organizados por la empresa Onubaland. Pueden realizar a pie, en tren o en barco, y discurren por diferentes zonas restringidas en compañía de un guía experto que aporta información sobre particularidades del entorno y la diferente avifauna. Los recorridos por las proximidades de las salinas permiten un avistamiento tan cercano de aves como los flamencos que sin duda el visitante agradecerá la visita a este rincón superlativo de la naturaleza onubense.



4. Centro de visitantes del 'Palacio del Acebún'/ Visitors center 'Palacio del Acebún'



5. Torre-Higuera en la playa de Matalascañas/Torre-Higuera in Matalascañas beach



6. Flamencos en Doñana/ Flamingos in Doñana  
7. Marisma de la aldea de El Rocío/ Salt marshes of the village of El Rocío  
8. Uno de los miradores que conforman el Paraje Natural Marismas del Odiel /One of the viewpoints that make up the Odiel Marshes Natural Park

natural and cultural heritage, as well as to discover the various ways of enjoying it firsthand - exhibitions, clearly marked trails and guided tours of the different ecosystems.

The 'El Acebuche' Visitor Centre was the first, and it continues to be the foremost point of reference and information for the Park, as well as the starting point for all guided tours of the park. The centre is about three kilometres away from the coastal town of Matalascañas along the A-483 road towards El Rocío, which you will eventually exit and turn onto a driveway that is approximately two kilometres long. Located in an area of scrubland and pine forests beside a series of interconnected lagoons, this centre offers a permanent exhibition about the National Park complete with an audiovisual presentation. Two easy hiking trails begin just outside the centre; no prior authorisation is required to use them. The first trail, called "Laguna del Acebuche", runs 1.5 kilometres along the shore of the Acebuche Lagoon that was restored in the 1980s and is now home to certain waterfowl species that live in Doñana when the salt marsh's water level is low.

Six kilometres from the La Rocina Centre, along a paved road leading from the centre's parking lot and running parallel to the stream, is the third of these visitor centres - "Palacio del Acebún". In this former residence and hunting lodge, you can visit an ethnographic exhibition about Doñana that explains the historical and cultural evolution of the area. Another trail, called "Charco del Acebún", begins here and covers a distance of 1.5 kilometres. This path circles around the widened river bed carved by the La Rocina stream, allowing visitors to enjoy one of the few dense riverside woods that still remain in the area.

In addition to the trails that start from these three visitor centres, there is another trail in this section of the park - the dune trail. This 1.5-kilometre boardwalk begins where the National Park meets the eastern limit of the town of Matalascañas. Beginning in Matalascañas, you can walk along an exceptionally beautiful stretch of coastline over thirty kilometres long, flanked by the Atlantic Ocean and the imposing wall of sand dunes. Walking southeast, this route eventually comes out on the right-

hand bank of the mouth of the Guadalquivir River, opposite the town of Sanlúcar de Barrameda, in the province of Cádiz.

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The Park also offers visitors the possibility of exploring inside Doñana along different routes travelled in SUVs. Reservations are required and a fee is charged for this tour.

Although control and supervision of these activities fall to the park administrators, the tours are given by different private companies that have been awarded public concessions to this end. The Huelva routes, handled by the "Marismas del Rocío" cooperative, leave from the El Acebuche Visitor Centre. These tours spend four hours inside the Park, making stops at different points along the way to observe the most interesting and representative ecosystems. The drivers are also expert guides who provide their passengers with additional information and point out unusual occurrences and animal sightings during the trip.

Certain areas keep vegetation scarce, while giant reeds, nut grass and bulrushes grow in others, turning them into vast green areas in spring until they become dry in summer and fill with water again in autumn and winter.

Over three hundred different bird species populate the salt marshes at different times of year. Some use them as their winter headquarters, such as the greylag goose - Doñana is the most important wintering spot for this species in Europe. Others such as the spoonbill, an Iberian lynx the purple heron, the red-knobbed coot or the avocet arrive in spring for mating season. This extraordinary wetland also welcomes a variety of birds of prey such as kites, marsh harriers, black-winged kites, ospreys and the rare yet impressive Spanish imperial eagle.

This Natural Site contains the Calatilla Information Centre, which offers visitors various resources to help acquaint them with the location. In addition to the network of open-access hiking trails, which include several lookout points, and the information areas, guided tours organised by the company Onubaland are also available. These visits can be made on foot, in train or by boat, and they take visitors through different restricted areas in the company of an expert guide who provides information about the unique features of the setting and the different bird species. The routes that come close to the salt water areas grant such close-up views of birds - flamingos, for example

- that visitors cannot help but feel privileged to have experienced this amazing corner of Huelva's natural landscape.

and shores constitute enormously important ecosystems in Doñana, but the salt marshes are the key to the Park's relevance. It is also the largest ecosystem, since practically the entire area of the Guadalquivir River salt marshes in the province of Huelva are located within its borders. Their strategic location at the southern tip of Europe and close to the African continent has made the salt marshes home to numerous bird species. Although visitors may see the marshes as a flat surface, there are small variations of elevation that, with changes in the soil and humidity, create diverse habitats for flora and fauna. The high salinity in

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