

## Routes of birdwatching in the Region of Aljarafe-Doñana

The extraordinary attraction of the marsh, together with the richness and natural diversity of the territory, converts the Seville's Doñana into a paradise for ornithological observation, a region where the Association for the Development of Aljarafe-Doñana (ADAD) is developing an interesting valuation program of ornithological and nature tourism.

**T**he region named Aljarafe-Doñana, in the southwestern edge of the province of Seville, constitutes a patchwork of landscapes of great beauty and singularity. Places between the fertile meadows of the rivers Guadalquivir and Guadiamar, its appearance combines the green olive grove and the marsh landscape, besides the expanse of pine forests and Mediterranean mountain. Contributes to the Natural Space of Doñana with the 30% of its surface extension, holding large plains of marsh, an indispensable habitat for hundreds of bird species that live or visit Doñana every year. Veta La Palma, Raya Real, Brazos de la Torre y del Este or Arroyo de Pilas

are some of the most strategic spot for ornithological and fauna observation in a region full of environmental attractions to discover. Another emblematic natural milestone of the territory is the named Corredor Verde del Guadiamar, a Protected Natural Landscape, as a result of the recovery of the riverside after the burst of the mining pool in 1998. But the region holds more interesting environmental resources, such as the natural reserves Dehesa de Abajo and Cañada de los Pájaros, the pine forest of Aznalcázar and Puebla del Río, Isleta, Olivillos or Dehesa Boyal. Around this rich green patrimony, ADAD is developing in the last

years an important program of revitalizing and revaluation of the ornithological tourism, through direct support to entrepreneurs, the formation of human capital, the organization and sponsorship of tourist events, the edition of promotional and educational material, the exchange of experiences, the creation of ornithological and nature tourism packages, etc. Part of this work has been carried out in collaboration with other Spanish and European Development Groups, through transnational cooperation projects such as Arco Atlántico ([www.birdandalucia.com](http://www.birdandalucia.com)) or RETO-Red Europea de Turismo Ornitológico ([www.retoeurope.es](http://www.retoeurope.es)).



### MARSHES

The marshes of the Guadalquivir (down) show different biotopes such as the Lagoon of San Lorenzo (up) or the extensive rice fields that feed and give refuge to the birds in the summer season (right).



# Sevilla

## ROUTE 1 Marshes route

The marsh is the eco-system that gives more character to Doñana, and also the one who holds more ornithological richness. The route we herein propose would start in Dehesa de Abajo, where an amazing colony of white stork lives and the black kite nests. We'll continue in the named Cañada de los Pájaros, the unique private natural reserve of Andalusia, resulting of the transformation of an old gravel pit into a wetland that is used as a home by a great variety of aquatic birds. In the reedbed, endangered species breed in captivity, such as marbled duck or common coot. We'll continue the route enjoying incredible places such as La Cangrejera, Entremuros, Vuelta de la Arena, Lucio del Cangrejo or Lucio del Lobo, to continue in the visitors center "José Antonio Valverde", also named "Cerrado Garrido", which counts with spectacular panoramic over the marsh and from where we can observe a magnificent colony of glossy ibis, to finish our route in the named Caño del Guadiamar.



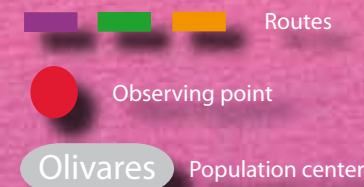
## ROUTE 3 Guadalquivir route

It contains the current course of the Guadalquivir, in addition to its old branches, the Brazo del Este, Brazo de los Jerónimos and Brazo de la Torre, traces of the ancient river. Due to the maintenance of water during the entire year, the branches turn into a refuge for aquatic birds, especially in summer, when the marshes go dry. In this period, they register a population of thousand of specimen of purple swamp-hen, but also purple heron or re-introduced species such as the common coot. The route starts in the Dehesa de Abajo and advances parallel to the course of the Guadaira, which is crossed to go deeper in Brazo del Este, a protected natural place of 1,300 hectares, passing by Cestero and finishing in Margazuela.



## ROUTE 4 Route of the Forest Crown of Doñana

In his route the big size vegetation predominates, formed by pine trees, meadows, wild olive groves and fruit trees of the villages of Aznalcázar, La Puebla del Río, Pilas and Villamanrique de la Condesa. Each grove counts with a characteristic fauna, from the big predatory to the small passerines. The route contains milestones such as the gallery forests of the streams of Pilas and Alcarayón, Cañada Honda and La Juliana (if we choose the north zone, in direction to Bollulllos de la Mitación), the named Vado del Quema, Dehesa del Tornero, Montes del Rey or Laguna de San Lázaro.



## ROUTE 2 Route of the ricefields

The rice fields occupy an extension of 30,000 hectares of the region in the heart of the marshes of the Guadalquivir. It constitutes a rich nutrients larder for birds, especially when the marsh goes dry and food is limited. This route starts in the visitor's center of the Dehesa



de Abajo (La Puebla del Río) in direction to Isla Mayor. From this village we can choose various routes, going around Entremuros until Veta de Alí, in direction south until Veta La Palma or in direction to Isla Mínima del Guadalquivir, passing by Brazo de los Jerónimos.

## ROUTE 5 Route of the Green Corridor and the Countryside of Aljarafe

It's the recovered area after the burst of the mining wastes pool in 1998, which shows an ecologic corridor with the river Guadiamar as central axis. In its medium zone there is a gallery forest whose mission is to be the "green highway" for many species. In the down part, the Guadiamar is channeled in



Entremuros to the Brazo de la Torre, whose riverbeds hold thousands of aquatic birds. The milestones that this route covers pass by Ruins of Torreón de San Antonio and the village of Salteras, Doblas in Sanlúcar la Mayor, La Campiña in Olivares, Mirador de Benacazón, and the botanic itinerary of El Buitrago and the Vado del Quema, both in Aznalcázar, until reaching the drain channel of the Guadiamar.

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