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  - 📍 information points
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  - 🚒 SOS posts
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  - 🚉 suburban train station
  - 🏠 viewpoints
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# Parque Metropolitano

## Marisma de los Toruños y Pinar de la Algaida

Polígono Industrial Matagorda

# Parque Metropolitano

## Marisma de los Toruños y Pinar de la Algaida

### natural heritage

The environments we find in this Park are generally linked, in their origins and evolution, to Guadalete River. The course of San Pedro River was a branch line of Guadalete River, being part, together with its marshes, of the estuary which was formed in the mouth by this river bed.

Some tideways cross the marsh and those with bigger importance, like Bote, El Caserón and La Casilla, flow into Levante Beach. This natural beach stretches as a part of the littoral arrow (elongated island of sands; that is why it is known as Los Toruños Peninsula), delimiting the entrance of the tideway towards the interior.

La Algaida Pine Grove (from Hispanic Arabic "algayda", dense scrubland) is located on the left bank of San Pedro River, on an old barrier-island, as a result of reforestations in XIX century.

dunes temporary lagoons marsh pine grove salt mines pasturelands



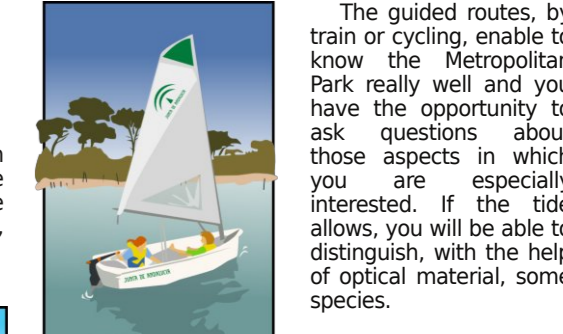
### What can you do?

**Metropolitan Park**  
Los Toruños Marsh and La Algaida Pine Grove.



#### Los Toruños House

In Los Toruños House you can ask for information about next events and activities, visit the interpretation centre, the library, the shop or the restaurant-bar and, if you belong to any association, you can assemble here.



The guided routes, by train or cycling, enable to know the Metropolitan Park really well and you have the opportunity to ask questions about those aspects in which you are especially interested. If the tide allows, you will be able to distinguish, with the help of optical material, some species.

If you prefer not to adapt to the visiting hours, you can rent a bicycle any day of the week; besides, the Park has adapted bicycles for physically handicapped people. Another possibility is to take advantage of tide times for a river route on kayak or collective boat.

In this park, you have some modules where you can get your strength back: toilets, pic-nic tables, and a security service 24 hours a day (if you need orientation or help, don't doubt and use the SOS post)

Many of these activities are offered for the weekend and holidays although, if you belong to a large group, you can arrange the activity any day of the week.



Paying attention to the civic participation and looking for the sensitization and Environmental education, volunteerings and school campaigns are organized here.

Consult the web page and request information for the next events, because sports competitions, cultural and leisure activities and celebrations complete the Park Activities Program.



### Do you know me?

**Metropolitan Park**  
Los Toruños Marsh and La Algaida Pine Grove



As it is part of the Natural Park Bay of Cadiz (1989), it is classed as an Special Protection Area (SPA) for wild birds (1993) and a Wetlands of International Importance (2003). It is Public Maritime-Land Domain Area.

Located in the heart of the Metropolitan Area in the Bay of Cadiz and with more than 1000 hectares of extension, it is the most extensive Metropolitan Park in Andalusia.

The Regional Ministry of Housing and Land Management, through the Public Sector Company of Soil in Andalusia, sees to administer this maritime-land area opening the doors to the sport, education, research, culture, etc. In short, this Park opens its doors to those who share different forms of enjoying themselves and conserving this extraordinary space.

A few steps away from the city, you will find a surprising variety of landscapes and activities.

**Enjoy your visit!**

Safe phones: 650 71 59 40  
639 18 55 71

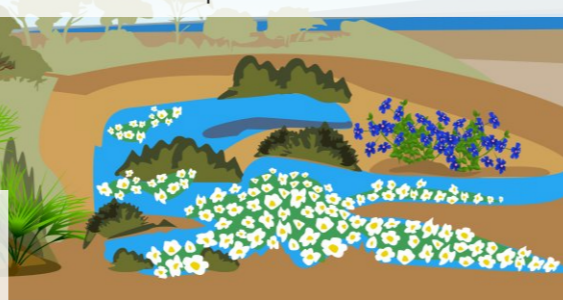
Red de Parques Metropolitanos de Andalucía  
Empresa Pública de Suelo de Andalucía  
CONSEJERÍA DE VIVIENDA Y ORDENACIÓN DEL TERRITORIO

### What can you see?

#### La Algaida pine grove

There are, associated with the nut pine grove, some savins and a dense undergrowth formed by yellow elders, mastic trees, juniper trees, mock privet, gum cistus, dwarf palms, etc.

A Great number of wild flowers dye the Pine grove, intercalating areas of big tamarisks and temporary fresh water lagoons covered by a white mantle of buttercups.

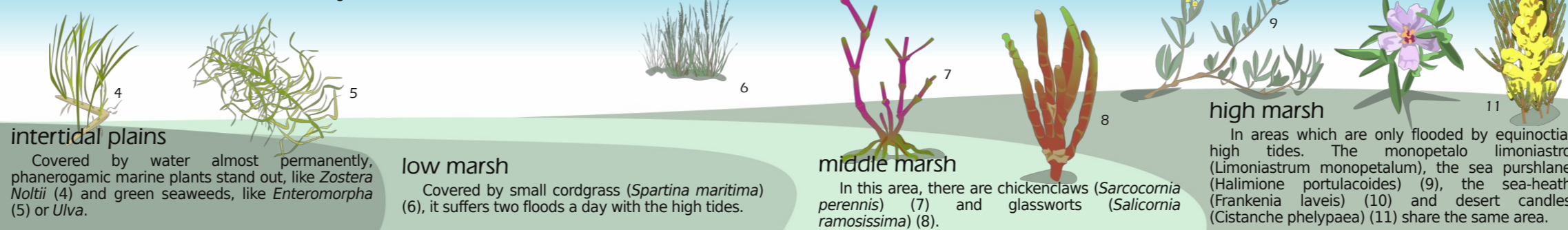


#### cord of dunes

Some hardy plants, which resist winds and saline spray from the swell, grow on this area. Some of these plants are beach grass (1), gray bird's-foot trefoil (2), madonna lily (3), etc.



Walking by Los Toruños Marsh, we can observe some different horizons of flood marked by the tide. In this environment, salt water determines the vegetable distribution.



#### horizons of flood

In areas which are only flooded by equinoctial high tides. The monopetalo limoniastro (Limoniastrum monopetalum) (1), the sea purslane (Halimione portulacoides) (9), the sea-heath (Frankenia laevis) (10) and desert candles (Cistanche phelypaea) (11) share the same area.

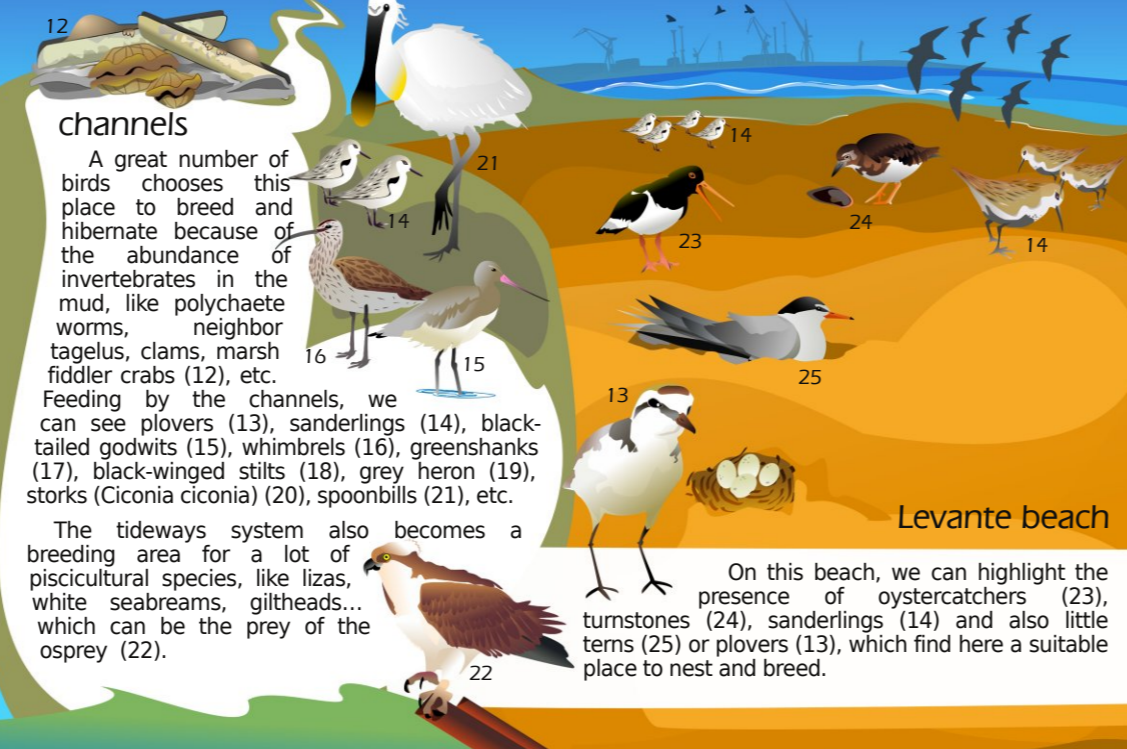
### How can you arrive?



**Metropolitan Park**  
Los Toruños Marsh and La Algaida Pine Grove

- bus
- suburban train
- catamaran
- metropolitan streetcar (under construction)
- airport

### inhabitants



#### channels

A great number of birds chooses this place to breed and hibernate because of the abundance of invertebrates in the mud, like polychaete worms, neighbor tagelus, clams, marsh fiddler crabs (12), etc. Feeding by the channels, we can see plovers (13), sanderlings (14), black-tailed godwits (15), whimbrels (16), greenshanks (17), black-winged stilts (18), grey heron (19), storks (Ciconia ciconia) (20), spoonbills (21), etc.

#### Levante beach

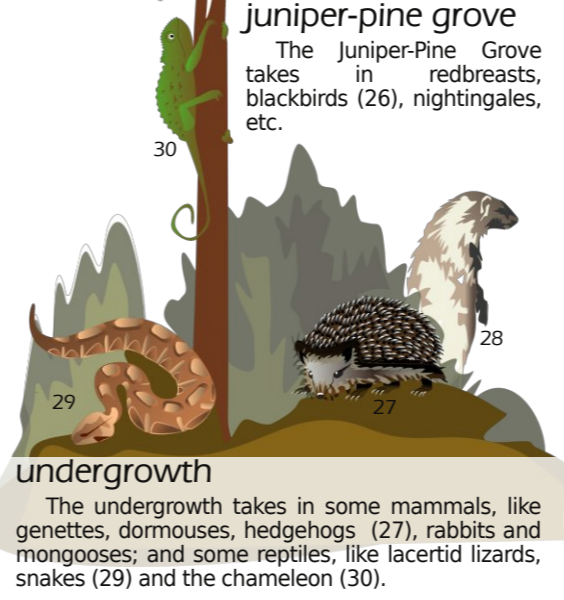
The tideways system also becomes a breeding area for a lot of piscicultural species, like lizas, white seabreams, gilthead... which can be the prey of the osprey (22).

On this beach, we can highlight the presence of oystercatchers (23), turnstones (24), sanderlings (14) and also little terns (25) or plovers (13), which find here a suitable place to nest and breed.

### temporary lagoons

These temporary lagoons become some important areas for breeding, feeding and as a supply of drinking water for birds and fauna.

We can see here some invertebrates and amphibians, like the Spanish ribbed newts (31), western spadefoots or natterjack toads (32).



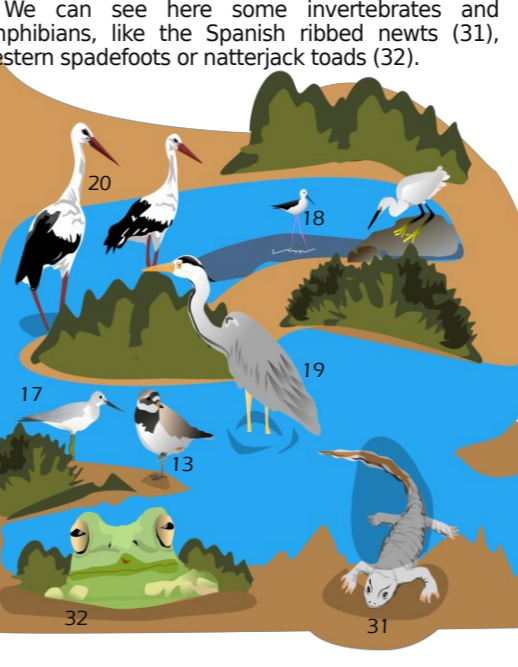
#### juniper-pine grove

The Juniper-Pine Grove takes in redbreasts, blackbirds (26), nightingales, etc.

The undergrowth takes in some mammals, like genettes, dormouses, hedgehogs (27), rabbits and mongooses; and some reptiles, like lacertid lizards, snakes (29) and the chameleon (30).

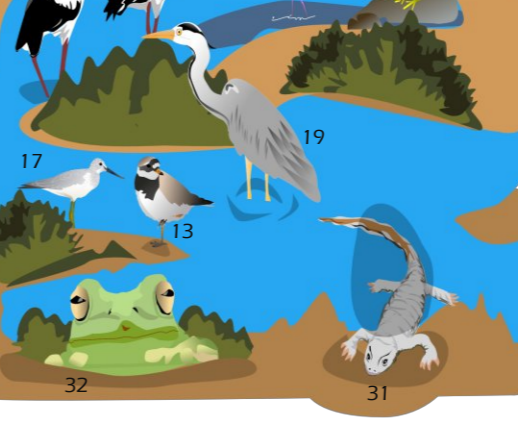
### strategic area

This Park has become, throughout the history and because of its particular geographic location, a strategic referent during the wars in the Bay. Like this, in XIX century, in order to lay siege to Cadiz, Napoleon's troops set up their camp on La Algaida Pine Grove, and the breach of San Pedro River was built to protect the Trocadero Peninsula in view of new wars (this breach had a special importance during the Trocadero war- against the Cien Mil Hijos de San Luis)



#### navigation routes

The presence of sunken flotsams from the Roman Age shows that San Pedro River was also a navigation route, becoming one of the most important routes in the middle of XV century.



### curiosities



#### salt tradition

Some salt mines have been operative for many years, and they were the economic support for a big number of families. In XIX century, Los Desamparados Salt-mine House was the exploitation centre and, around it, they organized the salt harvest, some wharfs, a

winter cowshed, a little piscicultural production and a vegetable garden. From XV century, Los Torunos is considered an area with special importance for salt and marsh activities.

#### traditional uses

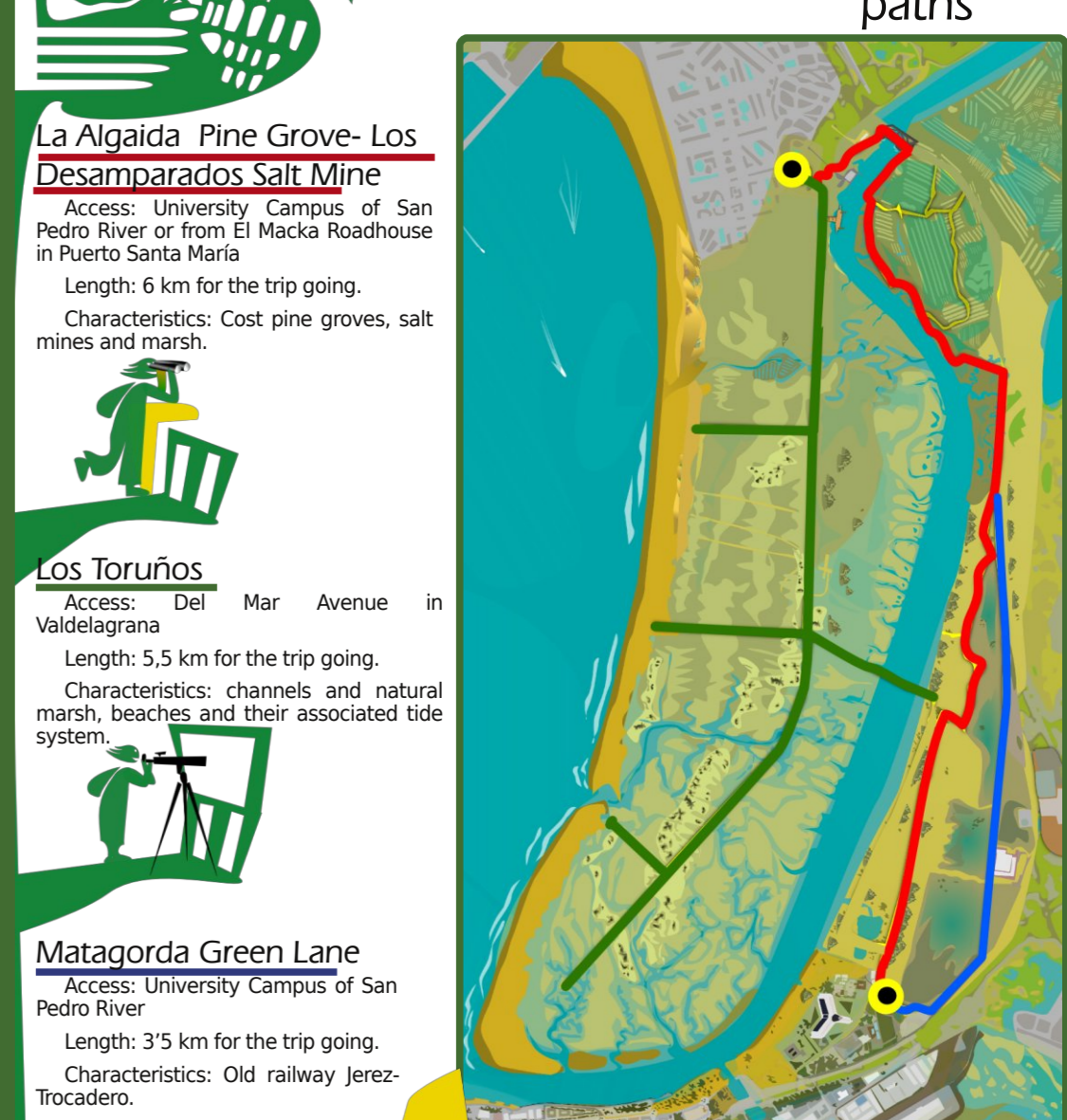
The traditional uses in this area have left their marks on the landscape that we can observe today: grasslands used as pasture for cattle raising; remains of old orchards to produce vegetables, and the production of soap from saltworts (bushy plant of salt marshes and sea beaches having prickly leaves; burned to produce a crude soda ash). It was also used as hunting ground for feathers and fur (hares, rabbits and partridges).

#### navigation routes

From a long time ago, the environment which is the Metropolitan Park today has been linked with activities which has always looked for the exploitation of natural resources: salt mines, fishing, cattle raising, piscicultural and agricultural cultivation, etc

Small wagons which crossed the Park taking the salt to the jetties of San Pedro River (San Fermin Salt Mine with Decauville Way), remains of fortifications, old bridges (Roman Bridge- Venta El Macka) and sunken flotsams, wells and winter cowsheds (Cortijo de la Vega) remember that men, always, have lived with the Nature.

### paths



#### La Algaida Pine Grove- Los Desamparados Salt Mine

Access: University Campus of San Pedro River or from El Macka Roadhouse in Puerto Santa María  
Length: 6 km for the trip going.  
Characteristics: Cost pine groves, salt mines and marsh.

#### Los Toruños

Access: Del Mar Avenue in Valdelagrana  
Length: 5.5 km for the trip going.  
Characteristics: channels and natural marsh, beaches and their associated tide system.

#### Matagorda Green Lane

Access: University Campus of San Pedro River  
Length: 3'5 km for the trip going.  
Characteristics: Old railway Jerez-Trocadero.

www.parquedelabahia.es

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS  
**Los Toruños House**

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