

# LA MARCIEGA

## La Marciega. Feast your eyes

You're right in the middle of the mouth of the impressive Bentayga drainage basin, on a wide alluvial plain. To the south, the Guguy massif, to the north, the ridges of the marine cliffs of Andén Verde.

All around you, a leafy tamarisk wood associated with an important marsh zone providing diverse environments. On the coast, the beautiful beach of La Aldea and a coastal lagoon, El Charco. In the middle of the wood, temporary flood areas which are the habitat for rich and varied fauna. And, protecting this whole space, wide slopes, semi-arid and stony, which are inhabited by steppe birds in danger of extinction.

La Marciega is a unique spot, a marsh associated as long as can be remembered with the history of a very special town. Get to know it, enjoy it, and treat it well.



There is still much to be discovered about the structure of the marsh and its surroundings and how they work, and also about the uses which have been made of the marsh over the years.

The coast and the marsh were a vital factor in the settlement of the first residents at least 1500 years ago.



- 1 The classification of uses and publication of the values of these assets are a priority in the process of improvement.
- 2 The image and the ecology of the marsh change radically according to the level of flooding.
- 3 The tamarisk wood tolerates salt water flooding, making this a rich and productive ecosystem, similar to mangrove swamps.
- 4 The mouth of the La Aldea ravine is a major attraction for ornithologists.

## i Marshes, Vital Environments

The wealth of the aquatic environments has, since time immemorial, meant that the needs of the different civilisations which have known how to take advantage of their resources have been satisfied.

Marshes are a habitat for a multitude of living beings, offering shelter to an enormous variety of aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna. Building materials, resources for food, medicine and decoration are all to be found in the marshes. Their beauty and attractiveness for recreational and teaching purposes are high value cultural functions. And they regulate ecological processes which are vital for life, such as hydrological and carbon cycles.

Even so, and despite their importance, these unique settings are under threat. This is due to a huge range of factors, among which are mass tourism, intensive farming, industrial development and the artificial alteration of river beds and aquifers



## Enjoy La Marciega without leaving your mark!

- **Respect the flora**, don't trample plants or pull them up.
- **Keep to the path**, you're walking through a highly sensitive area.
- **Walk quietly**, don't make loud noises or play music, the fauna will thank you for it!
- **Keep the area rubbish-free**, use the rubbish banks and bins.
- **Take care of the environment**, stacking stones alters the landscape.
- **Avoid walking your dog**, and if you have to, don't forget to keep it on a lead.



DOWNLOAD  
THIS  
INFORMATION  
ONTO YOUR  
PHONE

