



Natural Park Doñana.

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What is Doñana?

Doñana is a Spanish protected natural area located in Andalusia and has 122,487 hectares. It is considered as the largest ecological reserve in Europe with a unique ecosystem in the world, UNESCO recognized it as a World Heritage Site in 1994. In Doñana we can observe more than 300 different species of birds throughout the year, being a resting place for miles of them.



Flora y Fauna

Regarding the flora there are many species of trees: such as pine, Flowers like the rose. Of special interest are species such as *Linaria tursica*, the maritime juniper or *Hydrocharis morsus ranae*, as many of them are threatened. It is also estimated that there are more than 900 species that settle in the Doñana ecosystems.

Regarding the fauna, 20 species of freshwater fish, 10 amphibians, 13 reptiles, 37 non-marine mammals and 360 birds are cataloged, of which 127 usually reproduce in the Park.

Among all this fauna, three species in particular that are in danger of extinction are: The Iberian Lynx, The Imperial Eagle and The Graeca Tortoise.

Doñana's Dangers

Unesco has valued on several occasions the inscription of the Park in the list of world heritage in danger. The Park is included in the Red List of Heritage in danger, published by the Hispania Nostra Association. We can divide the dangers to which it is subjected into 3 groups:

- **Infrastructure impact:** such as the creation of an oil pipeline between Extremadura and the Port of Huelva or the need to frequently dredge the Guadalquivir to allow the entry-exit of ships to the Port of Seville.
- **Overexploitation of water resources:** due to water withdrawals for irrigation, many of them illegal, to maintain crops such as cotton, rice and mainly strawberry. In addition, the risk of salinization of its waters related to climate change is raised; the entry of water from the Atlantic could endanger several species and there would be risks of desertification.
- **Forest Fires:** In June 2017, a serious forest fire started in the municipality of Moguer that affected the natural park. 8486 hectares were burned which were scrubland and woodland.

what you can do?

In Doñana you can do different activities such as:

- Engraver the pine forest of Algaida.
- Make a cruise aboard the Real Fernando ship: To visit both the Natural Park and the National Park.
- Approaching the Asperillo: A sandy cliff with almost 30 meters of altitude.
- Enjoying its beaches and mobile dunes.
- There are also different routes to explore Doñana by bike, kayak, paddle surf, windsurf or horse.

Imágenes Doñana

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07YF7bijwz4>

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