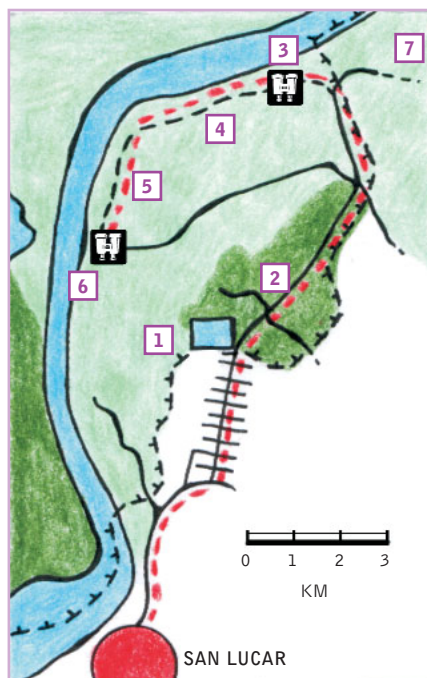


## ROUTE 14: SALINAS, MARISMAS AND UMBRELLA PINE FORESTS OF ALGAIDA

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longish roundabout (straight across, 3rd exit). You are now on the Carretera de Bonanza. This road will lead you through Bonanza and to Algaida.

After leaving the urban core of Bonanza you'll pass some private Salinas and salt piles on your left hand side. The road then turns right into Algaida, where it makes a sharp left turn. It now has become the main road of the community. Follow it until you have almost reached the pine forests at the end of the village. Take the last turn left before leaving the village and continue this track for about 150 meters for good views on the Laguna de Tarelo.

**1** Fenced in and bordering intensive agricultural land, Laguna de Tarelo isn't the most scenic of places. This will be easily forgiven by birdwatchers, because it is one of the best places in the Doñana area to spot white-headed ducks, slender-billed gulls and Adouin's gulls. Other birds along the reedy marshes are little egrets and squacco herons, little grebes, black-headed grebes and a changing composition of duck species. If you continue to the far side of the lake and look to your left, you can have your first taste of the salt pans and its flamingos.

Go back and turn left at the main road. Continue through the forest.

**2** The umbrella pine forest of Algaida is very open and has a rich undercover dominated by Phoenician junipers and yellow scrub rockroses\*. At the far end is a little chapel with a shady picnic area.



The odd pine forest of Algaída.

After leaving the forest, turn left on the 'main' (but still potholed) road along the central canal. Follow it for 2 kilometres until it takes a sharp right to cross the canal. Continue straight ahead onto the dirt track to the 'observatorio de Bonanza'.

**3** Ahead you'll encounter a small hide overlooking a pool and the marshes that border the Guadalquivir. Continuing on the track, which makes a sharp turn left at the location of the hide, similar pools and reedy marshes grace the landscape on your right hand side. Here you can find egrets, herons, spoonbills, flamingos, black-winged stilts and, during migrations, numerous waders. Curlew sandpiper, redshank, spotted redshank, greenshank, wood sandpiper, dunlin, little stint, avocet, whimbrel, ringed plover and Kentish plover are the most encountered species.

**4** On your left hand side the landscape is dominated by dry marismas. Birds are less visible here, but include some sought-after species, such as lesser short-toed larks, caladra larks, collared pratincoles and, with luck, white-bellied sandgrouses.