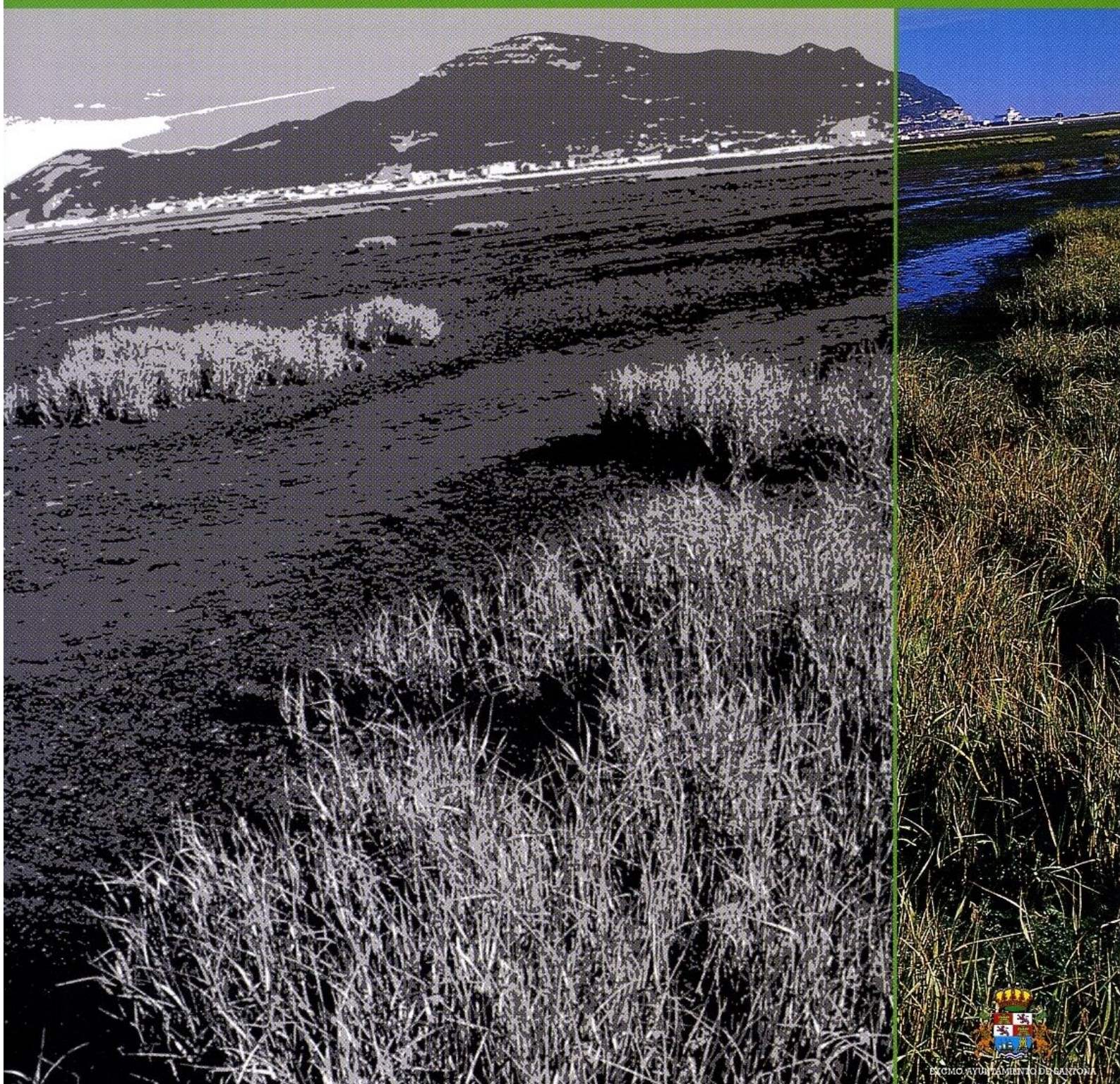


Santoña, natural

Marshes, Trails, Observatories...



Nature: marshes, mountains and hostel

The natural setting of Santoña is privileged. The town is surrounded by beautiful beaches and rich marshland and watched over from high by Mount Buciero.

Marshes:

The Marismas de Santoña Nature Reserve, with over 4,000 hectares of high ecological value, is considered to be one of the most biologically diverse enclaves of Spain and is inhabited by 20,000 birds of 120 species, small mammals and unique plant life. The birdlife includes many species from Northern Europe which choose Santoña to spend a much less severe winter than in their countries of origin.

Spring and autumn are the seasons for migration and are therefore ideal for spotting seabirds. The cliffs such as Punta El Fraile of Monte Buciero are a refuge for many of the birds passing through the marshes and using them as a brooding place. The plant life of these cliffs has developed incredible methods for adapting to an environment with little fresh water.

The birds that can be seen on the marshes include: divers, grebes, cormorants, spoon-billed herons, geese, ducks, rallidae, limicolas, gulls and sternidae.

A trip around the sandy areas of the Reserve will allow you to see the plant life that has adapted to survive in the harsh conditions imposed by porous and unstable land as well as the animal life that visits to feed on molluscs, crustaceans and insects.

The best way to see the marshes is to follow the trail that has been established, which runs along the Marisma de Bengoa dykes, to the north of the urban area of Santoña, via a path that runs parallel to the C-629 road. This itinerary, which is fairly easy-going over its 2,300m, can be completed in around two hours, allowing you to enjoy all the nuances and beauty of the marsh with its six stop-off point with explanatory boards.





Monte Buciero:

The Buciero mount is one of the largest continuous surfaces and the area of greatest interest for this type of habitat on the Iberian Peninsula.

The species that characterises this type of formation is the Cantabrian holm oak, which has certain ecophysiological features that differentiate it from the Mediterranean subspecies. The Cantabrian holm oak tends to have a coastal or sub-coastal distribution, a more hygrophilous nature and a laurel-like leaf. The Buciero oak wood contains a very diverse flora, with an abundance of Atlantic species, including broad-leaved deciduous species. The atmospheric conditions predominating inland create a microclimate which favours the development of a great diversity of species, particularly lianas and shrubs, resembling in some way the laurisilva habitats present in distant Macronesia.

The attraction of this mountain doesn't just reside in its vegetation and plant life; its batteries and forts remind us of the strategic importance of Santoña in times gone by.



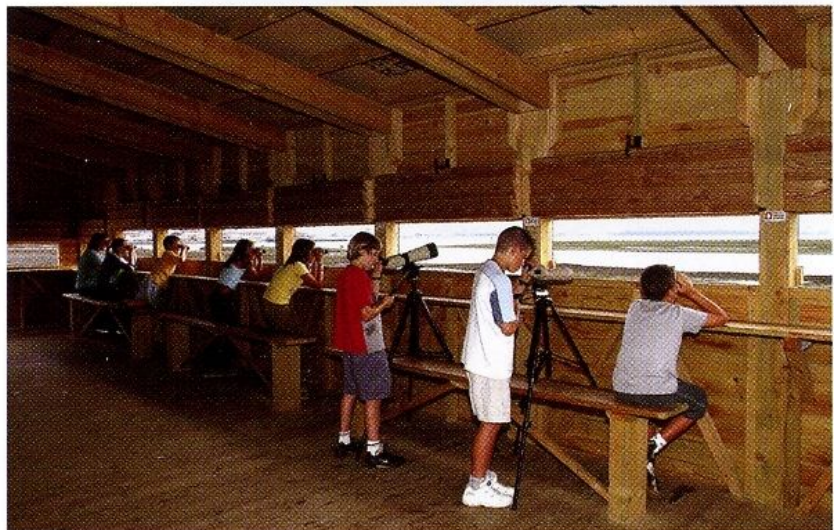
The Santoña municipal hostel (Albergue de Santoña):

The Santoña municipal guest house is an excellent accommodation option if you wish to enjoy the marshes and observe the birds and Monte Buceiro, at the foot of which the guest house is located.

You can enjoy hiking on Monte Buciero and around the Santoña marshes, horse riding, ecological trails, mountain biking, climbing, abseiling and zip-lining, potholing and archery.



The Santoña municipal hostel
(Albergue de Santoña):
Information and booking: 942 66 20 08
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