



Grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*) at Els Tossals Beach in Guardamar. P.G.



White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) V.S.



Squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) V.S.

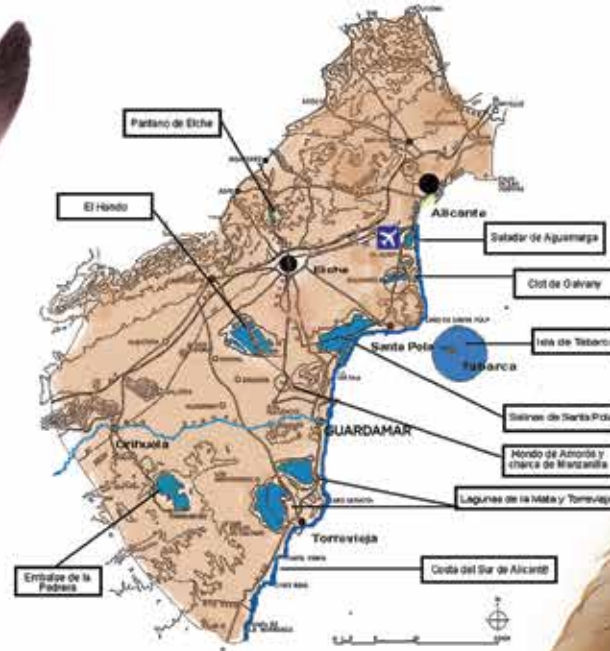


Common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) V.S.

Text: Joan-Carles Martí i Casanova
Map of the area: Amigos de los Humedales del Sur de Alicante A.H.S.A.
Pictures: Vicent Sansano (Director of El Fondo Reservoir in Elx-Crevillent) V.S.; Joan-Carles Martí i Casanova J.C.M.; José Antonio Meseguer J.A.M.; Pedro Grimao P.G.; La Mata Salt Lakes Natural Park L.M.N.P.; El Fondo Reservoir E.F.R.; Guardamar Turisme G.T.
Design: Gregorio de Andrés, Eva Martínez

© All rights reserved

Birdwatching areas Southern Costa Blanca A.H.S.A.



Accommodation and further information:
www.guardamarturisme.es
guardamarturisme@gmail.com

Tel.: +34 96 572 44 88



River Segura's pier and lighthouse J.A.M.



AJUNTAMENT DE GUARDAMAR DEL SEGURA

Guardamar Birders' Haven

COSTA BLANCA
COMUNITAT VALENCIANA
SPAIN



Marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) V.S.



River Segura's mouth in Guardamar J.C.M.

If you are a bird lover, whether an enthusiastic amateur or a seasoned pro, Guardamar and the surrounding area of the Southern Costa Blanca offers a wide variety of species uncommon elsewhere along with some more common ones. There is an abundance of birdlife that would impress any European birder. Migratory periods in spring and autumn will, of course, bring in many water birds. Seawatchers have a plus at our river's pier, coastal dunes, beaches and neighbouring hills, where they can catch a glimpse of a bird list too long to mention in a short presentation.



Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*) at Les Ortigues Beach in Guardamar J.C.M.

Guardamar is a small district of 22 square miles and 17,000 inhabitants in the low seasons and is right in the middle of it all. It is a Mediterranean resort, 30 minutes south of Alicante International Airport with a large 2,500-acre coastal dune-pine forest abutting a 6-mile long beach of white sand to the north and south of the River Segura, which is 202 miles long from its source in southern Spain. Almost 80% of the district is made up of protected woodlands, sand dunes and traditional irrigation and dry farming lands.



Guardamar dune pine forest G.T.

Historically an area of fishing and farming—activities still pretty much alive—Guardamar translates as “Sea Lookout”. Archaeologists have found long tunnel nests of European bee-eaters (*Merops apiasters*) on the sandy bank walls of *La Fonteta*; an 8th century BC Phoenician colony next to the River Segura's mouth. On that same site, green colour drawings of birds under a palm tree have been found on a lime plaster wall of the 10th century AD *Ribat* or Islamic retreat monastery, hidden under the sands for a thousand years. These pictograms include blue herons (*Ardeo purpurea*), mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and other small birds.



A drawing of green birds at the Muslim *Ribat* of *La Fonteta*, 10th c. AD taken from M^a Jesús Rubiera Mata, Universitat d'Alacant.



Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) at River Segura's Mouth A.H.S.A.

The town offers both a traditional small Spanish town and international atmosphere unique in the region.

The staff at Guardamar Tourism Board—a Guardamar Council Department—will be delighted to help you organise your birders' trip.

We can accommodate up to 5,000 people in cozy traditional pensions, small and larger hotels, apartments or a 5-star camping site with bungalows near the river's mouth.



Els Vivers Beach. Coastal dune system G.T.

Birders familiar with the Spanish Mediterranean coast may remember the names of bird havens such as El Fondo Reservoir in Elx-Crevillent, the Santa Pola Salt Pans, the Mouth of the River Segura in Guardamar or the Salt Lake Lagoons of la Mata and Torrevieja, all within a 15 minute drive from your accommodation in Guardamar.



Viewing point at the Salt Lake Lagoon of La Mata L.M.N.P.



We are a small but enthusiastic team who will make sure you are pampered with good tips and advice.

Visit Guardamar, where migration is the season for breathtaking impressive bird sightings.

El Fondo Reservoir in Elx-Crevillent E.F.R.

River Segura's mouth and lighthouse P.G.

