

SANCTUARY (name)

The Church of Our Lady of Rocio

SANCTUARY DESCRIPTION

History

The first hermitage, was built in the late XIII Century, by Alfonso X “El Sabio” (The Wise Man). It was ten rods long and it was oriented to the south. It was plain Mudejar style, with a wooden gable roof and an atrium. All throughout history, this hermitage will suffer several extensions and important changes. Nevertheless, it will remain erect until mid-18th Century, when Lisbon’s earthquake (in 1755) almost destroyed it.

In 1760 a new shrine was blessed, with bigger dimensions and a different floor plan, oriented to the west. It was also inspired by the Mudejar style, with some baroque style elements on its façade and on its magnificent altarpiece, attributed to Cayetano d’Acosta. In 1915, many important alterations were accomplished, until its demolition, which was done in order to build the current shrine, in 1963.

- **Why was it named “Blanca Paloma” (White Dove)?**

It was a reference to the Pentecost feast, the arrival of the Holy Spirit to Virgin Mary and the apostles in the shape of a dove.

- **Which are the first clear and precise references that allude to Virgin of Rocio?**

In 1335, there was a meeting between some representatives from the city of Seville and from the town of Niebla and it was held in The Freile pantry. The goal was to address the boundary limits between both jurisdictions. “... *end piece of a church that is called Santa María of Rocinas*”. The virgin took the name from that place: La Rocina. In the book of “La Montería” (The Hunt) from 1340, attributed to King Alfonso XI, it said “... *And there is no doubt that they are the best groves where one can run from a church which is called Saint Mary of Rocinas and another one which is called Saint Olalla*”.

- **How was the apparition of the Virgin?**

According to legend, Gregorio Medina was a hunter from La Villa de Mueres (today, it is known as Villamanrique de la Condesa) and he found the Virgin in a hollow of an old trunk. When he put her back into her place, the hunter could read an inscription that said: “Maria de los Remedios is my name”. Afterwards, the virgin was located in a hermitage 10 rods long. All the details of this legend are fully explained in the rules of the Original brotherhood from Almonte of 1758.

- **When was she declared Patron Saint of Almonte?**

On Saint Peter’s day, June 29th 1653, during a solemn ceremony, the Lady of the Rocinas is named Patron Saint of Almonte. From then onwards, they call her Rocío instead of Rocinas.

Spirituality

It is a place to venerate The Virgin of Rocío. Attend mass. Receive the holy sacraments.

The Virgin is moved to the small village Almonte every 7 years.

The first documented appearance of Almonte's Virgin (Rocio) dates from 1607 due to a great drought. During the 16th Century, she appears a total amount of 11 times; in the 18th Century it was 16 times. In the 19th Century, the number was 6 times and in the 20th Century, 13. It was during the first half of the 20th Century when the tradition of the 7 years coincided with the re-opening of the church and it was repeated in 1949.

The next time the Virgin will be moved is on August 19th, 2019.

Aside from the Pentecost Pilgrimage, another tradition started in 1948, which was when the Brotherhood of La Palma del Condado requested to visit the Virgin once a year during a pilgrimage. Since then, Brotherhoods were given one day, usually a Sunday, when they can go on an Extraordinary Pilgrimage. However, the Brotherhood of Triana was given two days, All Souls Day and the closest Sunday to the festivity of La Candelaria, as a special concession of the Original Brotherhood.

Services

- We can begin with the presentation of the brotherhoods to the Original Brotherhood from Almonte on Friday evening and the Saturday before Pentecost. On Sunday morning, the Holy Mass of Pentecost takes place and at around 11 p.m., all brotherhoods pray the Holy Rosary at the same time. At around dawn, the *Jumping over the fence* ("el salto de la reja") by Almonte's villagers and the procession of the Virgin occur.
- On Sundays, The Brotherhoods celebrate their annual masses.

Pilgrimage Routes

"Camino Europeo del Rocío" (European Rocio's Way), which starts in the Capital City of Europe and you can go through beautiful and significant Marian shrines from Belgium, France and Spain, until you are at the feet of La Blanca Paloma (The White Dove) in its Rocío hermitage. It can be done at anytime of the year.

This Route establishes its starting point at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, in Brussels, and it goes over many Marian shrines, such as Our Lady of the Golden Heart (Beauraing, Belgium), Our Lady of the Saint and Sacred Vail (Chartres, France), Our Lady of Rocamadour (Rocamadour, France), Our Lady of Lourdes (Lourdes, France), Our Lady of Pilar (Zaragoza), Saint Mary of La Almudena (Madrid), Virgin Mary of the Head (Andújar), Our Lady of Monarchs (Sevilla) and Our Lady of Rocío (Almonte).

Stages

- Brussels-Beauraing
- Chartres-Rocamadour
- Rocamadour-Lourdes
- Lourdes-Zaragoza (el Pilar)
- Zaragoza-Madrid
- Madrid- Jaen

-Jaen - Seville
-Seville - El Rocio

- **OTHER ROUES:** EL ROCIO'S RUTE, which can only be done during the festivities of El Rocio. <https://www.rocio.com/planos-de-los-caminos-al-rocio/>

Catholic Rite

Latin Rite of The Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Rocio, El Rocio, Almonte, Huelva, Andalucia, Spain, Europe. GPS coordinates 37°7'50" - 6°29'11".

Address

Calle Ermita, s/n (no number), 21750 El Rocío, Huelva

Phone Number

959 442 425 959 450 376

E-mail

secretaria@hermandadmatrizrocio.org

Website

<http://www.hermandadmatrizrocio.org/>

FACILITIES

Accommodation

There is a great number of hotels, youth hostels, rural houses and campsites next to the shrine. The range prices go from 19 euros and above.

Accommodation suggestion:

<http://www.andalucia.org/es/destinos/provincias/huelva/municipios/el-rocio/recurso/accommodation/?page=2>

Campsites

There is only one campsite: LA ALDEA
YEAR 2017 PRICE/DAY

	Low Season	High Season
Adult	5,50	6,00
Child	3,70	4,50
Tent	5,50	6,00
Caravan	5,50	6,00
RVs	8,00	8,50
Car	5,50	6,00

Bus	10,00	12,00
Motorbike - bikes	4,00	4,50
Power Connection	6,50	6,50
Visits (guides)	5,00	5,00
Dogs	3,00	3,0

Bungalows Camping LA ALDEA - 1ª Categoría Rural (1st Rural Category) (Huelva, España – Spain))

Ctra. El Rocío (El Rocío's road), Km. 25 - Apartado de Correos (P. O. Box) nº 1 - 21750 El Rocío, Almonte (Huelva)

Tel. 959 442 677 - Fax. 959 442 582

Transports (access by Air)

The nearest airports to the village are:

-Sevilla-San Pablo.- 64 kms. (+34)95449000

-Jerez de la Frontera.- 146 kms. (+34)956150000

-Faro (Portugal).- 156 kms. (0351)289800800

www.aena.es

Transports (access by Train)

The nearest RENFE train stations are:

-La Palma del Condado. 14 kms.

-Huelva. 45 kms.

-Sevilla. 60 kms.

www.renfe.es tel.- 902240202

Transports (access by Car/Coach)

Car:

-From Huelva. - Take A-49 way to Seville, take exit 50 and continue through A-483 to Almonte, until you arrive at El Rocío.

-From Sevilla.- Take A-49 way to Huelva, take exit 48 y and continue through A-483 to Almonte, until you arrive at El Rocío.

Bus:

Damas transports Enterprise connects the three main areas of Almonte with

Huelva, Seville and other towns nearby. Tel.- (+34)959256900 www.damas-sa.es

Transports (inside the City)

Inside of El Rocío village, you can go on foot, ride a horse or by car (until certain places).

Other Facilities

Distances

To Huelva 46 km

To Seville 53 km

To La Palma del Condado 17 km

To Niebla 20 km

To Villamanrique de la Condesa 22 km
To Moguer 34 km
To Palos de la Frontera 41 km

ACTIVITIES' RESOURCES

Geographic Description

The village of Almonte is located in the South-West of the Iberian peninsula in the province of Huelva. It is one of the largest parts of Spain. This village is known because it has many attractive touristic activities.

Almonte can also offer sun and beach tourism because it has the very well-known Matalascañas beach. It is a centre that attracts several visitors during summer time and it borders Doñana's National Park, the most important wetland in Europe and one of the most important bird reserves worldwide. Most of the 100,000 protected hectares of the park are situated in Almonte's boundary.

Other attractive activities for visitors in this part of Spain are the village of El Rocio, a reference point of Marian devotion during Pentecost times, when the famous and popular Virgin of El Rocio pilgrimage attracts more than a million souls looking for a full of fervor encounter with God's Mother and Lady of Marismas del Guadalquivir (Guadalquivir's marshlands).

However, the city of Almonte also offers enough activities that will not "waste" your time in your visit to this region.

Volunteering Opportunities

Integra Association

(Association which offers a Working Inclusion for people with Disabilities in Almonte)

Spiritual Activities

The Pilgrim's Office, can issue the Official Certificate of the Pilgrim to whomever needs it. It is located in El Rocio, next to the Royal Shrine door.

Cultural Activities

Visit the hermitage, the museum, horse riding, visit Doñana National Park, visit Almonte.

Useful Links

<http://www.andalucia.org/es/destinos/provincias/huelva/municipios/el-rocio/>

<http://www.almonte.es/es/>

<http://donanadestino.es/>

oficinadelperegrino@hermandadmatrizrocio.org

SCOUT CONTACT PERSON AND RESOURCES

Contact Person

Scouts Católicos de Huelva (Huelva Catholic Scouts)
Federación de Scouts Católicos de Andalucía (Andalusian Catholic Scouting Federation)

Address

Scouts Católicos de Huelva (Huelva Catholic Scouts). Calle (Street) Cantero Cuadrado, 1 .- 21004.- Huelva
Federación de Scouts Católicos de Andalucía (Andalusian Catholic Scouting Federation). C (st)/ Limones 18, 3ª Planta. Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz - Cadiz) C.P. (Postal Code): 11403

Phone number

Scouts Católicos de Huelva (Huelva Catholic Scouts). (+34) 959 28 33 66
Federación de Scouts Católicos de Andalucía (Andalusian Catholic Scouting Federation).
956 349 728

E-mail address

Scouts Católicos de Huelva (Huelva Catholic Scouts).- oficina@scoutshuelva.com
Federación de Scouts Católicos de Andalucía (Andalusian Catholic Scouting Federation).- sede@scoutsur.com

Scouting Centres

Scouts Católicos de Huelva (Huelva Catholic Scouts)
Federación de Scouts Católicos de Andalucía (Andalusian Catholic Scouting Federation)

COUNTRY INFORMATION

Visa

The citizens of any European Union State, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein only need a valid identity card or passport. United Kingdom and Ireland don't belong to Schengen Area, therefore they will need a passport. If it is an underage person travelling with the ID card, it should have their parents' permission.

Languages

Spanish

Currency

Euro

Time

Occidental European Time (UTC+0)

Climate

The Mediterranean weather is quite pleasant. Its main characteristic is that it has relatively wet winters and dry summers, as a result of the Polar front variations and

also the subtropical high pressures. The rainiest seasons are the intermediate ones, during spring and specially fall some torrential rains can appear due to the accumulation of heat in the water bodies during summer, and the arrival of cold Polar drops. In winter, on the other hand, there can be a thermal anticyclone. The most significant fact of the weather is that there are between three to five dry months in summer.

Health

Healthcare Centre El Rocio Calle (Street) Bellavista , S/N (no number) BAJO (ground floor). 21750. El Rocio tel. 959439775
Pharmacy Antonio Ramirez Rodriguez. Address: Plaza (square) de Doñana, 7 C.P (zip code): 21750 - El Rocio
Telephone: 959 442 318

Emergency

Emergencies Telephone: 112

Useful Links

Insert useful links

OTHER / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **I want to do this Pilgrimage, what do I have to do?**

The week before Pentecost Sunday , the Brotherhoods go to the village of El Rocío through different ways. You can join one of them during the pilgrimage or use the same route and go by yourself. In any case, you should have the appropriate vehicle if you are going to go through roads, as well as food for several days (3 or 4) and a tent.

COMMENTS

Insert any relevant comments

RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMATION

Person Responsible

D. José María Pérez Valladolid.- Pilgrimage representative
Dña. Rosa M^a Jiménez Bocanegra.- Youth representative

Phone number

959 450 376

E-mail address

secretaria@hermandadmatrizrocio.org

Updated on...

Insert date of last update