



## **THE FISHING CORRALS OF ROTA**

The fishing corrals are constructions that have been usurped the ocean to take advantage of the tides in favour of fishing. They form an ancestral fishing art, since the construction of the first corrals dates back to Roman times, and historical testimonies recognize the continuity of their exploitation until the decade of the 50s. But what it's true is that it shows the important cultural heritage of Rota in the art of fishing. They have a great cultural, archaeological and natural value. They deserve special protection, and have been declared the First Natural Monument of Andalusia.

With a total surface of 110 hectares, they constitute the natural monument of marine area of largest extension in Andalusia.

Located on the north Atlantic coast of Cadiz, it comprises a small strip of ocean and beach opposite the municipalities of Rota and Chipiona. These plots of land usurped from the sea represent a traditional and historical art of exploiting fishing resources.

The fishing corrals, with a total of 8 units, are plots delimited by stone walls of artificial construction that separate the surface into different compartments, which are visible during low tide periods. When the tide rises, fish, cuttlefish and octopus enter and are trapped in stone cages when the tide drops. At that moment the captures are made with

traditional tools such as “francajo”, tide knife and “tarraya”.

Among its walls, constructed with sandstones and substrate lumaquelas, sea urchins, shrimps and crabs are fishing, being famous the oysters and barnacles. There are also species of rocky or muddy and sands areas, such as algae, sea grass, meadows, fish, worms and molluscs. Even sargos and conger eels, typical of deeper habitats, feed or spawn occasionally. Behind the walls there is a coastal reef with a wide diversity of species, which are later colonized by the corrals.

All this richness sustains seabirds coming from other areas of Cadiz, which rest or feed here.

At the same time, the area has an interesting natural offer inland, which such unique resources as dunes and pinewoods, the Celestino Mutis botanical garden, the largest national chameleon population, or houses linked to traditional agriculture of the coast, known as “ La Mayetería”( a name derived from harvest in May)

The leisure offer is completed with the enjoyment of its beaches and a visit to the great historical heritage of the city of Rota.



### **LOCATION:**

Although its main entrance is on the avenue named” Avenida de los Corrales”, it’s also possible to access from “ Avenida de la Diputación” trough a network of footpaths and pedestrian walkways that safeguard the dune system and pinewoods, and that cross the “Almadraba” Natural Park.

The beach of “Los Corrales” has an approximate length of 1,437.64 meters, that extend from Hotel Playa de la Luz, located in the first line of the beach, built on the facilities of the old Almadraba (tuna fishery) of Rota, to the “Arroyo Alcántara”’s mouth.

To make the most of your visit to Los Corrales, it’s advisable to do so during low tide hours, wearing shorts and suitable footwear like water shoes completely closed.

### **RECOGNITIONS:**

The Natural Monument of Los Corrales de Rota has obtained the following recognitions:

- Declaration of Los Corrales as a Natural Monument of Andalusia, ecocultural, based on Decree 226/2001 of October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ministry of Environment of the Junta de Andalusia
- “Q” for Tourism Quality. Spanish Institute for Tourism Quality (ICTE). Recognition obtained in December 2018, thanks to compliance with the UNE-ISO 18065 standard which guarantees a sustainable management system aimed service and continuous improvement of space.
- Site of Community Importance (SCI) of the European Ecological Network Natura 2000.

-----o0o-----