

# TXINGUDI MARSHES ECOLOGICAL PARK

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Classification</b>	Ecology Park
<b>Municipalities</b>	Irun.
<b>Area covered</b>	94 ha. space for visits (Plaiiandi Ecology Park and Jaizubia Marshes).
<b>How to get there</b>	Is located on the Txingudi Bay, near the Bidasoa River mouth. <b>By road:</b> Plaiiandi: in Irun. N-1 road towards France; A-8 exit Irun/Hondarribia. Jaizubia: in Hondarribia. N-1 and N-638 roads towards Hondarribia; A-8 exit Irun/Hondarribia. <b>Public transport:</b> Eusko Tren and RENFE in Irun. Bus lines in Irun and Hondarribia.
<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TXINGUDI EKOETXEA:</b> Txingudi marshes interpretation centre located in Plaiiandi: Pierre Loti Ibilbidea, s/n 20304 Irun. Tel.: 943 619389 • <a href="http://www.euskadi.net/txingudi">www.euskadi.net/txingudi</a> <a href="mailto:ekogarapen@terra.es">ekogarapen@terra.es</a></li> </ul>



▲ The wetland of the Bidasoa river-mouth is an area with a high natural value



▲ The Eurasian spoonbill is just one of the 175 animal species in Txingudi.



The Plaiiandi Ecology Park is located among the Bidasoa River, the Jaizubia irrigation channels, and the Bay of Biscay, whose waters was the Txingudi Bay. Between the towns of Irun and Hondarribia, and with views over the neighbouring France, this natural oasis was shaped by tides as they pleased and it is now one of the most important and busy bird migratory routes in Europe.

At present, Plaiiandi is space of naturalistic importance and internationally recognised, integrated into the Special Bird Protection Area (SBPA) "Txingudi" and into the Site of Community Importance (SCI) "Txingudi-Bidasoa." Both spaces are proposed to be an active part of the European Network of Protected Areas called Natura 2000. In addition, this space is also part of the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Together with Bizkaia's Urdaibai, Plaiiandi is one of the most important places in the whole Basque Coast with regard to bird fauna. This is because of its privileged location, at the foot of the Pyrenees wall, being one of the few passes without unevenness in these latitudes. Here converge birds going through the inner part of the continent and those flying parallel to the

coast—as in the case of cormorants, gannets, Lesser Scaups or seagulls-, creating thus the natural funnel of Plaiiandi.

This geographic location contributes to the variety of species existing during migratory periods. This turns Plaiiandi into top-quality vantage point for bird watching. Most of these birds are essentially aquatic, among which we can stand out the wading birds—frequent in slimes and wet areas-, herons, or anatidae passing with the aim of resting after a long journey—both in autumn months and in breeding periods- and of feeding. The presence of these specimens increases during the colder months, with usual birds like sailing birds, such as birds of prey, storks, and cranes. In sum, almost 175 different animal species

frequent this amazing habitat during the whole year.

The park has a 24-hectare surface, two inner lakes, a fresh water lake, an intertidal beach, and several watching points for visitors to know more about the habits of the birds coming to Plaiiandi before continuing their journey. The offer also includes a complete Interpretation Centre, revealing all the information issues related to the wetland, like the animal species, the plant species, and the reason of migrations.



## TO KEEP YOURSELF BUSY

### Routes:

Guided visits for groups are organised from the Information Point. Telephone number for previous reservation: 943 619 839  
On the other hand, it is possible to visit the park following the self-guided route, consisting in 17 explanatory panels distributed along the 2 kilometres of the itinerary. In addition, The Txingudi-Jaizubia Marshes also organises environmental activities.

### Birdwatching:

Along the park, there are several spaces established for watching bird species.