

ARENAL ESTUARY · VISITOR LEAFLET 3

The Tide Mill



*For 165 years the tide turned its four
wheels. Walk the dam and look down into
the wheel pit, where the pond empties
twice a day.*

OPEN ALL YEAR · FREE ON SUNDAYS

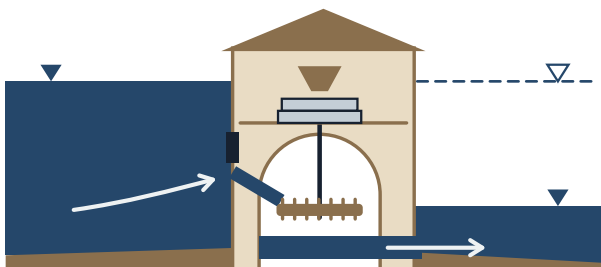


Figure 1. Two hours after high water: the pond turns the wheel, and the estuary has fallen below the dashed line.

Two tides a day

On the flood tide the sea pushes open the gates in the dam and fills the millpond behind it, six hectares of salt water; when the tide turns, the water inside presses them shut. Two hours after high water, the estuary has fallen far enough for the miller to open the chutes (**Figure 1**). The water drops onto a horizontal wheel in the vaulted pit under the floor, and an upright shaft turns the millstones above it.

The mill ground maize and wheat for the farms of the valley from 1791 until 1956. Restored in 2004, it grinds again on demonstration days, two hours after high water (**Table 1**).

Season	Days	Hours
April–June	Tue–Sun	10:00–14:00, 16:00–19:00
July–August	Mon–Sun	10:00–20:00
September–March	Fri–Sun	10:30–14:30

Table 1. Opening hours. Last entry 45 minutes before closing.

The path on the dam is flat enough for wheelchairs, and eleven steps lead down to the wheel pit. Tickets cost €3; entry is free on Sundays.