



ALENTEJO
TRANSALENTEJO
WALKING
TRAILS
ALENTEJO CENTRAL

PORTUGAL



TRANSALENTEJO
WALKING
TRAILS
ALENTEJO CENTRAL



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Approximate duration: 3h to 4h
Level of difficulty: Medium -

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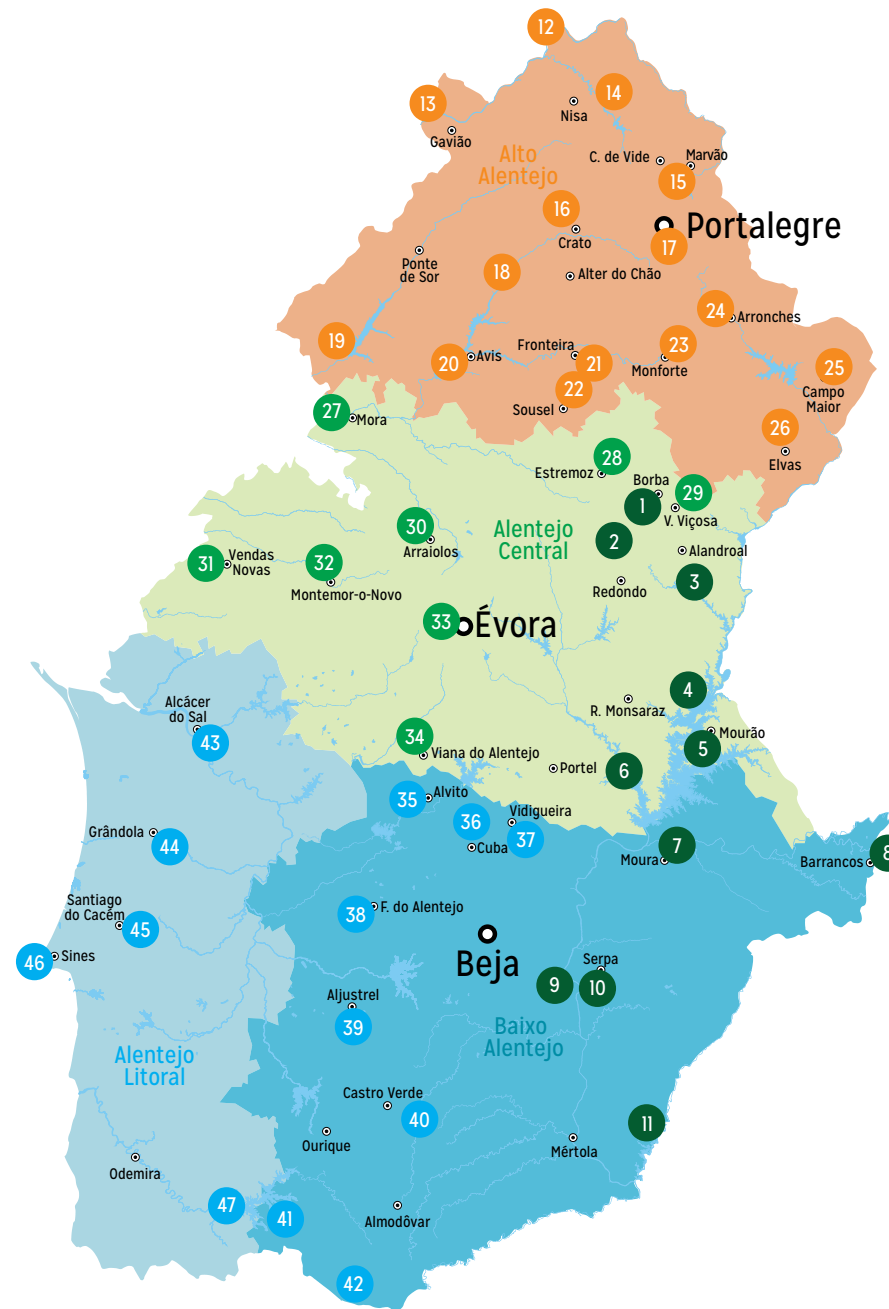


CONTEXT

Located in southern Portugal, the Alentejo is a vast territory covering an area of approximately one third of the country's mainland. This is a region of diverse landscapes where you will encounter different types of terrain and vegetation and a vast array of natural and cultural heritage. The cities, towns, villages and rural spaces in the Alentejo are well-preserved and authentic. As a result, the region is a favourite destination for all those who enjoy walking as a leisure pursuit.



REGIONAL LOCATION



KEY TO THE MAP

Alqueva

- 1 The Fantastic Serra D'Ossa
- 2 Hermits of the Serra D'Ossa
- 3 Conquest of Terena
- 4 Writings in Stone and Lime
- 5 Across the Living Heritage of Mourão
- 6 From Almeira to Alqueva With the Lake at Your Feet
- 7 Rout of Água de Moura
- 8 From Serra Colorada to Cerro do Calvário
- 9 Watermills and Fortresses of Guadiana
- 10 Trail of Azenha da Ordem (Watermill)
- 11 Arround the Cork Plantation (Montado)

Alto Alentejo

- 12 Conhal Gold Mine Trail
- 13 Tagus River Valley Slopes
- 14 Fantastic Landscapes of Póvoa e Meadas
- 15 The Fabulous Apartadura Dam
- 16 Flor da Rosa Historical Route
- 17 Senhor dos Afritos Pilgrimage Route
- 18 Seda Castle Route
- 19 Discovering Montargil
- 20 Maranhão de Avis Reservoir
- 21 Exploring the Ribeira Grande
- 22 The Fantastic São Miguel Hill
- 23 The Dolmens of Rabuje Route
- 24 Fortress and Valiant Town of Arronches
- 25 Defensive Structures of Campo Maior
- 26 Lines of Elvas

Alentejo Central

- 27 Mora, an Eternal Love
- 28 Monumental Estremoz
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- 31 The Pork Sandwich Route
- 32 Montemor Olive Orchards and Oak Groves
- 33 From Évora to Alto de São Bento
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Baixo Alentejo e Litoral

- 35 Memories of the Mills of Alvito
- 36 In the Age-old Vineyards of Vila Alva
- 37 Through the São Cucufate Vineyards
- 38 Cerro da Águia Route
- 39 Aljustrel Has a Mine
- 40 A Journey to the Origins of Portuguese Nationality
- 41 Hills and Valleys of Santana da Serra
- 42 Along the Odelouca Stream
- 43 Lord of the Martyrs Route
- 44 Grândola Hills Route
- 45 Santiago Between Farms and Oak Groves
- 46 The Sines Coast
- 47 From Santa Clara to The Dam

USEFUL AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS

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SOS Emergency and Rescue: 112
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808 200 520 sepna@gnr.pt

DESCRIPTION

The TransAlentejo Network presents the systematised organisation of a selected set of walking routes throughout the Alentejo, perfectly structured and signposted, chosen from among the several such routes in each municipality's territory. The choice of one route per municipality showcases the best that this territory has to offer in terms of landscape, natural values and heritage, creating a network of the best regional offerings for walking enthusiasts. Each of these routes is part of the respective Municipal Walking Route Network that can be discovered through each municipality's promotional platforms. The structuring and publication of the TransAlentejo Walking Routes began in 2014, with 11 municipalities in the territories of the Great Alqueva Lake, in the first of a set of four guide books, covering the 47 municipalities in the Alentejo Region:

- TransAlentejo Alqueva
- TransAlentejo Alto Alentejo (Upper Alentejo)
- TransAlentejo Alentejo Central (Central Alentejo)
- TransAlentejo Baixo Alentejo e Alentejo Litoral (Lower Alentejo and Alentejo Coast)

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The TransAlentejo Guide contains plenty of support information about each of the trails presented in it.

- The guide features a detailed description of each route together with a summary of five points of interest that you will find along the route.
- A map of each route has been provided by the Army Geospatial Information Centre, showing the outline of the route and identifying all of the points of interest.
- The signposts and other indications on each route are compliant with the markings ratified by the Portuguese

These guides and routes are intended solely for the purposes of tourists and individuals walking for personal enjoyment, on their own or in the company of family and/or friends, taking advantage of the different trails that have been properly studied, mapped and signposted. For professional use or organised tourist walks, this guide serves as a starting point for the exploration of a territory that has much to offer participants in your group programmes. More details can be obtained by contacting the Alentejo Regional Tourism Board, Municipal Tourism Departments or some of the many different tourism recreational companies, tour operators and accommodations throughout the Alentejo. They will be delighted to provide you with all of the best offerings for anyone who enjoys walking as a leisure pursuit. Competitive sporting events, races, bicycle tours, motor vehicle outings or other sporting or recreational events are not permitted on the marked walking routes published in this guide unless proper authorisation has been obtained from the landowners and the competent authorities.

Camping and Mountaineering Federation, as shown in the diagram.

- The online presentation contains comprehensive information about each route, with fact sheets provided on various viewing platforms, full support texts and external links for more information.
- The routes should always be walked in the direction indicated and which corresponds to the order of the points of interest.
- Signposting on the trails is two-way but this is solely to ensure your safe return in the event that you have to turn back.

SIGNAGE



Right way

®



Wrong way

®



Turn left

®



Turn right

®

CONDUCT AND SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Walk in a group. If you do decide to go alone, leave details of your planned route either at your accommodation or at the local fire station or GNR/PSP police station before setting out. Do not forget to let them know that you have returned safely.
- Check the most recent updates on the route's information panel or other places where local information is available, such as the local tourist office, council offices or police station.
- Pay close attention to places marked as hunting reserves and to the dates of the hunting season. Do not go walking when hunting events are taking place.
- If you are going on an organised walk, always obey the guides' instructions.
- Do not use the walking routes for running, cycling or driving in motorised vehicles.
- Choose the region where the route is located to stay in, have meals and go shopping. Meet and mingle with the local residents.
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear. Take sufficient food and water with you for the whole day, as well as a means of communication and a personal first aid kit.
- Listen to your body. If you are tired, very hot or cold, have a fever or an allergic reaction, are thirsty, hungry or uncomfortable for any reason, stop immediately and try to make your way to safety. If you have to, do not

- hesitate to call for help or assistance.
- Stay on the marked trails and be respectful of private and public property. If you open any gates or raise any barriers along the way, be sure to close or lower them again behind you.
- Do not gather samples of minerals or plants and try to avoid disturbing wildlife and livestock by keeping as far away from them as possible.
- If you take your dog with you, it should always have a collar and you should keep it on the lead whenever you are going through built-up areas, farms or places with livestock. Make sure your pet does not disturb other walkers or local residents.
- Take care in places where there could potentially be danger. If in doubt, turn back.
- Be particularly cautious when crossing streams, bridges, roads, streets and railway lines.
- Be respectful of the natural surroundings. Avoid wearing garish colours and making unnecessary noise.
- Keep all your rubbish with you until you find an appropriate bin to put it into.
- Do not light fires or use naked flames for any reason. Avoid smoking. If you must smoke, do so only in places where it is absolutely safe to do so.



MORA, AN ETERNAL LOVE

MORA

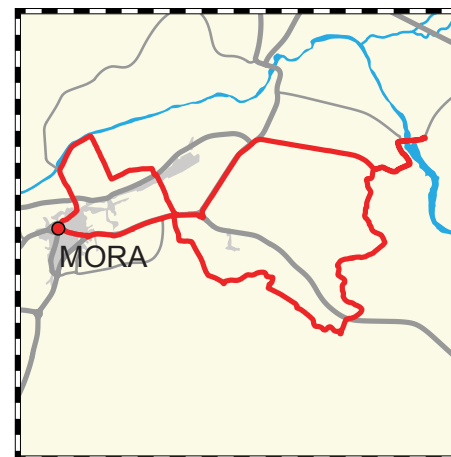
Here you will find a water-filled Alentejo all year round, a transitional space between the mountainous areas to the east and the floodplains to the west. The oak groves are vitally important not only because of cork production but also because they ensure very biodiverse ecosystems, enriched by fabulous megalithic remains. It is a constantly-changing landscape with horizons stretching to infinity, deep valleys and the possibility of walking along what was once an important regional railway line.

We are in the heart of the oak groves for a route that takes you through wide open spaces. No special effort is required and you will always be walking along well-marked country paths. Coming upon a fabulous megalithic cromlech brings an added thrill to your outing, which you can complete by visiting the famous Fluviário de Mora and by walking along an old railway line. Set off from the Igreja da Misericórdia (Church of Mercy) in Mora town centre and go down Rua de Pavia and Rua de São Pedro until you reach Avenida do Fluviário. Follow the ecotrail to the second roundabout, where you turn right to go around the industrial estate. After this, turn left on to a country path through an area of oak grove, until you have crossed the road leading to Foros de Mora. Go past a pond and keep right, alongside the vegetation between the open space and the scattered trees. The slight downward slope takes you through some wetland, after which you should bear left along a path that follows the stream and passes a small weir. This path ends at a junction, precisely at the spot where you will find the Monte das Fontainhas Cromlech. Turn left to cross the EN251 road and then keep going straight ahead along a country path, always through the oak grove. Pay particular attention to the signposts as there as

various country paths that fork off along the way. The country paths wind their way through the oak grove, eventually bringing you to a wide, flat path that corresponds to the place where the Mora branch line of the railway used to be. At the crossroads with the country path you just came down, you can choose to take an out-and-back side trip to visit the Fluviário de Mora; otherwise, turn left towards the end of the route. If you do decide to do the side trip, simply follow the farm fields until you reach the Barroca road and then turn right until you come to the Gameiro Weir. Returning to the point where side route comes out, follow the railway line to the famous National Road 2. Follow the road by taking the ecotrail on your left as far as the roundabout and turn right there. Turn right again at the next roundabout and go down Rua da EPAC until you reach the grain silos. Go straight ahead, crossing the farmland in the floodplain, and head towards the bank of the River Raia. Keep going on the left along the sports fishing path. Turn left at the weir and go up Rua dos Barros, pass the Megalithic Museum and turn right on to Rua do Município. Go past the town hall, the market, the municipal garden and the Igreja Matriz (Main Church), bringing you back to Terreiro da Misericórdia.



FACTSHEET OF THE ROUTE



PR1
MOR

Route: Mora, an Eternal Love
Location: Mora
Distance: 18Km
Accumulated gaps in meters: 351m
Minimum and maximum altitude in meters: Min 51m Max 164m
Approximate duration: 4h to 5h
Level of difficulty: Medium
Type of surface: Country and forest paths
Start and finish: Terreiro da Misericórdia, Mora
Geographical coordinates: N38°56'39"W08°09'55"
Where to park: Parking available in the immediate vicinity, within the built-up area
Useful Contacts: Mora Tourist Office
 Tel.: +351 266 439 079
 Email: turismo@cm-mora.pt

NOT TO BE MISSED

VILLAGE OF MORA

In the twelfth century, the land where Mora would subsequently be built came under the jurisdiction of Coruche Castle, which D. Afonso Henriques donated to the so-called Freires de Évora (a religious order) in 1176. The place name "Mora" first appeared in an official document in 1293, which mentions an estate called "Cabeça de Mora". This name suggests height or a high point, which makes us think that the site of this estate was the place where the town of Mora was founded. Closely connected to the River Raia and its floodplain, we are in an area of farmland and forests, with oak groves in particular taking pride of place.



MONTE DAS FONTAÍNHAS CROMLECH

A set of rounded stones, known as monoliths, in rough granite, placed upright and distributed in an almost circular layout. The name given to this type of structure is "cromlech" and they are believed to have been used for purposes such as astrology, calculating the seasons of the year and worship. Today they are greatly appreciated by tourists and by people studying Neolithic civilisations.



MORA, AN ETERNAL LOVE NOT TO BE MISSED

AQUARIUM OF MORA

The Fluviário de Mora is a public aquarium dedicated to fresh-water ecosystems. It focuses on providing knowledge and raising awareness about the importance of these ecosystems' biodiversity and their relationship with people. It is located in the Gameiro Ecological Park and consists of a set of aquariums and surrounding spaces, allowing visitors to see the different species of fauna and flora that can be found in rivers and lakes.



MORA ECOTRAIL THE OLD RAILWAY LINE

The Mora branch line was inaugurated in 1907 and ran between Évora, Arraiolos and Mora. This old railway line, which runs through three of the Alentejo's municipalities, has been converted as an ecotrail and covers a distance of 60 kilometres.



INTERACTIVE MEGALITHIC MUSEUM

Inaugurated on 15 September 2016, this museum encompasses and rehabilitates the old Mora Railway Station, as well as having two new buildings intended to house the museum centre and a cafeteria. Built from scratch, the museum space covers an area of 750 m2, taking advantage of the features of the terrain, and includes three spaces that represent the daily lives of the populations: Life, Death and Contemplation. Here, visitors are welcomed with a 3D film that portrays life in a Neolithic settlement, taking us on a journey back in time.



MONUMENTAL ESTREMOZ

ESTREMOZ

In Estremoz, we appear to have found the ideal Alentejo, where the monumentality of the historic heritage crowns, from atop the hill, the endless croplands and vineyards below. In the distance, like a film set, the jagged profile of the Serra de Ossa uplands cuts into the horizon; and, with every step, we are surprised by new landscapes that seem almost to have been cut geometrically into the farmland. From underground, we get the white marble that is the hallmark of churches, chapels, palaces and crazy-paving.

The square called Rossio de Estremoz is one of the most monumental in the Alentejo and is the starting point for a route that quickly takes you out of the built-up area. Once in the countryside, you will always be walking along farm paths, winding their way amid vineyards and cropland. The scenery is magnificent and the easy access means you can be sure of an unforgettable day out. Start next to the Tourist Office, right next to the monumental Igreja da Conceição (Church of the Conception) of the Convento dos Congregados (Convent of the Congregation) and go east of the square towards the Convento das Maltezas (Maltezas Convent), which houses the Living Science Centre. Go along Avenida Condessa de Cuba until you reach the de-activated railway station. No trains run here any more. Just as a reminder, follow the old railway line, now Avenida Rainha Santa Isabel, go over the roundabout that pays tribute to the train, and wind your way through the streets of the Mendeiros Neighbourhood until you leave the houses behind and find yourself in an area of vineyards, next to the power plant. Follow the country path, with vineyards all around you, until you reach a junction; turn left here and head uphill to the wineries. Head downhill to the EN245 road, cross over it and keep going through the vineyard. Take the first path on the left and then on the right, always through the grapevines, until you reach a viewpoint from which you can admire a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside.

Pass the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception), right next to the remains of the Pedra da Ronca Dolmen, and keep to the right, next to the fountain, until you reach the EN245 road. This will bring you to the old Ameixial railway station. If you appreciate places full of nostalgia then do take a look around. Turn left before the station and follow a monumental plane-tree-lined avenue that forms a fantastic green tunnel. Cross over the EN4 road (please be extremely careful doing so), pass the hotel and take the access road to the old railway halt, turning left before the dead-end. Here you can admire the monumental Fonte do Imperador (Emperor's Fountain). Go through farm fields, being sure to close the gates behind you along the way, and cross over the IP2 road (again, take great care doing so). Go into the vineyards, on private property and always staying on the indicated paths, until you reach the Chapel of São Lázaro (Saint Lazarus). Here you can still see the remains of an old Islamic kubba at the site of the chancel. Enter the walled enclosure through the Porta de Évora (Évora Door), turn left and go past the ravelins and the barracks, in the Terreiro do Loureiro. Go along Rua Alexandre Herculano until you reach Largo Espírito Santo, over which the monumental Couraça Towers stand guard. In bygone days they protected the access to drinking water outside the walls. Take Rua Narciso Ribeiro and then go through Largo General Graça, with its magnificent reflecting pool. This will bring back to Rossio de Estremoz and the starting point.



FACTSHEET OF THE ROUTE



NOT TO BE MISSED

ROSSIO SQUARE MARQUIS OF POMBAL OF ESTREMOZ

The square called Rossio de Estremoz and named after the Marquis of Pombal is considered the biggest central square in Portugal. It is the historic site where the Portuguese troops gathered prior to the Battle of Atoleiros in 1384 and is surrounded by monumental architectural and historical heritage, including the Church of São Francisco (Saint Francis), the Convent of the Congregados (Congregation), the Maltezas Convent, the Águas d'Ouro Café and the Gadanha Lake, which is fed by a spring that rises next to the place where the Fonte do Sático (Fountain of the Satire) is located.



PR4
ETZ

Route: Monumental Estremoz
Location: Estremoz
Distance: 11,4Km
Accumulated gaps in meters: 210m
Minimum and maximum altitude in meters: Min 324m Max 423m
Approximate duration: 3h to 4h
Level of difficulty: Medium -
Type of surface: Country paths and roads
Start and finish:
Estremoz Tourist Information Office
Geographical coordinates:
N38°50'30" W07°35'07"
Where to park:
Public car park at the site
Useful Contacts: Estremoz Tourist Office
Tel.: +351 268 339 227
E-mail: turismo@cm-estremoz.pt



MALTEZAS CONVENT

Named the Convent of São João da Penitência, this convent was home to the nuns of the enclosed Order of Malta, starting in the sixteenth century. Its cloister is the biggest of all the convents in the city and is a fine example of the rich Manueline architecture. Currently owned by the charity Misericórdia de Estremoz, a hub of the University of Évora operates in the cloister buildings, as does a Live Science Centre, with an interactive and educational museum devoted entirely to geology.

MONUMENTAL ESTREMOZ

NOT TO BE MISSED

CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF THE CONCEPTION PEDRA DA RONCA DOLMEN

About two kilometres from the centre of Estremoz, on the Ameixial road, the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception) stands on a hilltop next to the dolmen commonly known as Pedra da Ronca. It is believed to have been built in the late sixteenth century but has undergone refurbishment on various occasions over the years, resulting in a somewhat changed appearance from the original.



EMPEROR'S FOUNTAIN

A country fountain that is simple in design and large in size, it is set in a restful spot with plenty of shade. Since it has the year 1821 engraved on it, the Emperor in the name must be D. João VI, who was the Emperor of Portugal and Brazil at that time. Every railway station and halt had a nearby water supply for waiting passengers and for the pack animals that were used to carry goods and passengers to and from the trains.



ESTREMOZ DOLLS ARTISAN FÁTIMA ESTRÓIA



In her small studio at 3 Rua Narciso Ribeiro, artisan Fátima Estróia gives colour and shape to her Estremoz Earthenware Dolls. In December 2017, the dolls were included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



EXPLORING THE ROYAL ROAD

VILA VIÇOSA

We are in a territory that boasts immensely beautiful heritage and where white marble takes pride of place in palaces, convents, churches and statues. Apart from the splendour of its heritage, there is farmland stretching for as far as the eye can see, traditional olive and cork oak groves, and springs and streams that shape the terrain, now healthy pastures for large numbers of farm animals.

After a small urban section affording an excellent view of the castle's moats and defensive structures, the route takes you along part of the Royal Road that linked Vila Viçosa to Elvas, now perfectly integrated into the rural landscape. It is clearly marked and work has been done to level it out somewhat by building banks and by creating landfills in the lower areas. Go past the front of the municipal market and walk along Rua Dr. António José de Almeida as far as Praça da República, the splendid avenue with marble crazy-paving and impressive carved stone benches. At the top, pass the Baroque Church of São João Evangelista (Saint John the Evangelist) and head towards the castle, which is almost hidden by the vegetation. Go past the statue of mathematician Bento Jesus Caraça and the bust of poet Florbela Espanca, two of the town's noteworthy figures. Go around the post office building and when you reach the pillory go slightly uphill to take the path on your right that follows the moat around the castle. On Rua dos Capuchos turn

left towards the Convento dos Capuchos (Capuchin Convent) and admire the huge enclosure with its cross and bandstand. Straight after, turn left along Caminho do Paraíso. After a stretch between farm walls, take the first turn-off on to a paved road on the left and cross a small bridge. Keep going through the old-growth olive groves and keep right when the road forks. This path affords a wonderful view over the wall of the Tapada Real, which encircles the vast property belonging to the Casa de Bragança Foundation. Away up at the top you can see the Chapel of Santo Eustáquio (Saint Eustace) and you will often see fallow and red deer grazing. Continue through the woodland and take the right-hand path at both of the next two forks in the road. Always keeping to the main path, go past the restored Vale da Rabaça Fountain until you reach the Municipal Road. There, turn right and keep going all the way to the end of Rua dos Capuchos. Turn left at the roundabout and then right at the next roundabout, bringing you back to the municipal market.



FACTSHEET OF THE ROUTE



NOT TO BE MISSED

CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

This seventeenth-century temple stands in the Praça da República. It is also known as the Church or College of São Bartolomeu (Saint Bartholomew) and was commissioned by the Dukes of Bragança in 1636 to house the Jesuit college of Saint John the Evangelist. The imposing façade, lined with locally-sourced marble, has three rows of windows and three doors, with Doric columns on either side. Flanked by two square bell-towers, the façade also features a clock, which was placed there by the local council in 1822. Inside, the church is a classic example of Baroque architecture; the retablo in the chancel, in gilt carving crafted by local artisan Bartolomeu Gomes in 1726, is particularly noteworthy.



PR1
VVC

Route: Exploring the Royal Road
Location: Vila Viçosa
Distance: 8.5Km
Accumulated gaps in meters: 248m
Minimum and maximum altitude in meters: Min 259m Max 405m
Approximate duration: 3h to 4h
Level of difficulty: Medium -
Type of surface: Urban, country and forest paths
Start and finish: Municipal Market, Rua D.João IV, Vila Viçosa
Geographical coordinates: N38°46'37" W07°24'58"
Where to park: Public car park at the site
Useful Contacts: Vila Viçosa Tourist Board
 Tel.: +351 268 889 317
 E-mail: postoturismo.cmvv@gmail.com



FLORBELA ESPANCA

A Portuguese poet of considerable renown, Florbela Espanca was born in Vila Viçosa on 8 December 1894. She wrote many literary works over the course of her life, most notably her love-themed sonnets, which addressed topics related to love, such as solitude, sadness, longing, nostalgia, seduction, desire and death. Author of short stories, novellas and diaries, as well as many translations, she was also deeply involved in the literary life of various newspapers and magazines. She died at the age of 36, taking her own life due to deep personal suffering and a diagnosis of lung disease.

EXPLORING THE ROYAL ROAD

NOT TO BE MISSED

VILA VIÇOSA CASTLE

Commissioned by D. Dinis in 1297 as a royal dwelling and to make use of the hunting grounds surrounding the town. Inside the fortress, little remains of the original construction due to numerous interventions carried out on it over the years. What does remain of the original fortification is a large part of the enclosing walls, which have three doors harmoniously defended by pairs of cylindrical towers. It is classed as a National Monument.



CHURCH OF THE CAPUCHIN CONVENT

The convent church, dedicated to Nossa Senhora da Piedade (Our Lady of Pain) is a Baroque building dating from the 1700s. The entrance is guarded by eighteenth-century wrought iron railings and, inside, three framed niches house the terracotta figures of Saint Francis, Saint Anthony and Saint Bernardine of Siena. On the left-hand side of the porch, on the way into the church, is the chapel of the transit of Saint Francis. Built during the reign of D. João V, it is one of the most curious features of the building.



VILA VIÇOSA TAPADA REAL

The original Tapada Real was ordered enclosed in 1515 with a lath and plaster wall built around what was then the Herdade do Meio, between the Borba and Asseca Streams, in an area of abundant cork and holm oak trees. From then on it became the Casa de Bragança's private big-game hunting reserve. Six kilometres long, three kilometres wide and covering an area of more than 1,500 hectares, it was, at one time, the biggest walled enclosure for recreational hunting in the country.



BETWEEN STITCHES AND HILLS OF ARRAIOLOS

ARRAIOLOS

When we are in Arraiolos, the first thing that comes to mind is the famous art of embroidery, widely applied to carpets for decorative purposes and normal use. This is an ancient legacy of a territory whose memories go far back in the mists of time and whose high point is the village of whitewashed houses from which there is a view over never-ending fields. The countryside here is replete with oak groves. Once crossed by trains, it is now a marvellous space for walkers.

We experience a trio of emotions on a walk that is accessible along good paths, although there are a few steep hills to grapple with. Start by exploring Arraiolos town centre and the streets where artisans embroider carpets and you can still see vestiges of road traffic from yesteryear. Farther on, you have the beauty of the oak groves and the big lakes and, lastly, an ecotrail that affords comfortable walking and where hope-filled trains used to run. Start next to the bandstand in Praça da República and take Travessa Torta to reach the main production centre for Arraiolos Carpets, with its various shops. Go through Largo da Misericórdia Square and head towards Praça do Município, where the town hall and the Arraiolos Carpets Interpretation Centre are located. Leave the town along Rua do Espírito Santo and then Rua Cabo da Vila. The country path gives way to a dirt track and you start a long and rather steep downhill section through countryside consisting of oak groves dotted with little farms. There is an important reservoir and sports fishing facility on the Oleirita Dam and the scenery is beautiful, a feast for the eyes both on the descent and once you reach the banks. Walk along the banks until you reach the ecotrail which takes you along what used to be an old railway line. Please

be sure to close any gates and barriers behind you as you go. When you walk along the ecotrail you will be exploring a veritable feat of human engineering. The embankments designed by the engineers to keep the railway line as level as possible mean that the bends are gently inclined and there are practically no steep slopes. The only sounds breaking the silence are those of nature and the abandoned railway buildings are a reminder of other times, other people and other emotions, experienced by those who came this way, as is the case of the old Arraiolos Railway Station. Leave the ecotrail along a country path that's a bit difficult to spot, right before a big water tank on the path. Now take a country path as far as the Chapel of Nossa Senhora de Fátima at a place called Ilhas. All along the way you can admire the wonderful scenery with the Serra d'Ossa Hill on the horizon. Go around the garden and take Rua Subtenente António Piteira and, almost at the end, turn along Rua Fria. Take a look at the historical centre and head down the aforementioned road. From here, you start going uphill through modern roads accessible to traffic. The scenery is sublime. Cross over national road EN4 and go into Arraiolos along Rua de São Francisco which will bring you back to garden you set off from.



FACTSHEET OF THE ROUTE



PR1
ARL

Route: Between Stitches and Hills of Arraiolos

Location: Arraiolos

Distance: 9.4Km

Accumulated gaps in meters: 224m

Minimum and maximum altitude in meters: Min 238m Max 356m

Approximate duration: 3h to 4h

Level of difficulty: Medium -

Type of surface: Country and urban paths and ecotrail

Start and finish: Praça da República, Arraiolos

Geographical coordinates:
N38°43'23" W07°59'03"

Where to park: Parking available in the immediate vicinity, within the built-up area.

Useful Contacts: Arraiolos Tourist Office

Tel.: +351 266 490 254

E-mail: turismo@cm-arraiolos.pt

NOT TO BE MISSED

TOWN OF ARRAIOLOS

Nestling between three hills and boasting an excellent elevated position, it has Arraiolos Castle as a landmark. The circular wall and some ruins of the castle have survived to the present day. Almost Romantic in appearance, they frame the splendid Igreja Matriz do Salvador (Main Church of the Saviour). The urban space with its narrow streets and whitewashed houses holds memories of significant human occupation since the earliest days of the Portuguese nation, heir to previous civilisations and clearly attested to by the many archaeological vestiges.



ARRAIOLOS CARPETS

Arraiolos Carpets, which probably date back to before the sixteenth century and which have been produced on quite a large scale since the eighteenth century, became increasingly popular and were to be found in palaces and mansions all over the country. They are embroidered by hand, using only a needle and pure wool thread in various colours, on a jute or cotton backcloth. Replete with history embroidered by generations of embroiderers, they are one of the best-known and oldest forms of handicraft in Portugal, maintaining traditional patterns while also seeking modern variations.



BETWEEN STITCHES AND HILLS OF ARRAIOLOS NOT TO BE MISSED

ARRAIOS CHURCH OF MERCY

Belonging to the Sisterhood of the Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Arraiolos, established in 1524, this Mannerist-style temple was founded in the late sixteenth century. Located in the town's historical centre, its interior walls are lined with an interesting set of tile panels dating from the eighteenth century.



ECOTRAIL THE OLD RAILWAY LINE

The Mora branch line once played a very important role in the development of the rural areas between Évora, Arraiolos and Mora. Inaugurated in 1907, thousands of trains ran along its length until 1990, transporting passengers and cargo, in particular grain and livestock. The line is no longer active and, since there are no more trains on it, it is now a marvellous trail that is perfect for walkers and cyclists.



MONUMENT TO THE CARPET-MAKER

A contemporary sculpture, based on a stone monolith with an application of a mosaic reminiscent of an Arraiolos carpet and a ceramic panel alluding to the work of the embroiderers. On the sloping back there is a bas-relief that shows the hills of Arraiolos with the castle on high. The work was created by artist Armando Alves and was unveiled in 2001.



THE PORK SANDWICH ROUTE

VENDAS NOVAS

This is the gateway to the Alentejo, through which people from the capital come when seeking adventures in the endless countryside to the south of the River Tagus. The horizon seems to stretch endlessly and the places where people have chosen to settle over the generations are largely the result of having access to roads and railways, essential for getting around in this part of the country. The urban space is well-thought-out and organised, connecting naturally and harmoniously with the surrounding farmland and forests.

Set off from Vendas Novas Municipal Council, in the space of the former Royal Palace, and head into the town centre for a look at the fabulous Igreja Matriz (Main Church). Continue along the modern Avenida 25 de Abril, passing the school and the sports grounds and turn on to the Avenida da Misericórdia next to the shopping area. Turn right along Rua Val de Figueira and go around the southernmost edge of the city. When you reach the garden in the Bairro José Saramago, veer to the left along a country path surrounded by farmland. Turn right and head northwards through an oak grove, pass Afeiteira along Rua Maria de Lurdes Pintassilgo and when you reach Rua Beatriz Costa turn right next to the large forest. When you reach Estrada da Afeiteira, immediately turn left through the Foros da Misericórdia area until you find Rua Almada Negreira on your right.

Continue along the left-hand side of this road. Keep going until you come to Rua José Francisco Fragoso, on the fifth perpendicular road on your left. This will bring you to Rua da Boavista; here you will find a number of establishments where you can sample the famous "Bifana de Vendas Novas", a traditional and tasty pork sandwich. Turn right towards the town centre along Rua da Misericórdia and then left along Rua Domingos Sávio. Here you can admire the church with the oracle of this saint. When you reach Vendas Novas Public Garden, turn left and cross the green leisure space to get to National Road EN4, turning to your right. Go through the built-up area, along Avenida da República, where once again the famous pork sandwiches rule the gastronomy roost in various places, and you will see the Royal Palace, now the Escola Prática de Artilharia, a military school.



FACTSHEET OF THE ROUTE



PR1
VND

Route: The Pork Sandwich Route
Location: Vendas Novas
Distance: 16,8Km
Accumulated gaps in meters: 203m
Minimum and maximum altitude in meters: Min 111m Max 150m
Approximate duration: 4h to 5h
Level of difficulty: Medium
Type of surface: Urban and country paths
Start and finish: Vendas Novas Municipal Council
Geographical coordinates: N38°40'40" W08°27'18"
Where to park: Car park at the site
Useful Contacts: Vendas Novas Tourist Office
Tel.: 265 890 554
E-mail: posto.turismo@cm-vendasnovas.pt

NOT TO BE MISSED

CITY OF VENDAS NOVAS

It was D. João III who, in the sixteenth century, ordered a staging post to be created half-way between Aldeia Galega (the present-day Montijo) and Montemor-o-Novo. There was a need for a safe place where the kingdom's travellers could change horses, spend the night and get something to eat. This would be the embryo for a fast-growing support structure for travellers that became even more important when the majestic eighteenth-century royal palace commissioned by D. João V was built.



VENDAS NOVAS PORK SANDWICHES

Since 2011, "Bifanas de Vendas Novas" has been a registered trade mark of Vendas Novas Municipal Council. This gastronomic delicacy has been famous for a good number of years now and many people are very keen to try it. Nowadays, Vendas Novas Pork Sandwiches are an unrivalled Portuguese treat that consist of a tasty and tender pork steak, fried in a sauce made to a secret recipe and served in a warm or toasted bread roll.



THE PORK SANDWICH ROUTE NOT TO BE MISSED

ROYAL PALACE

Known as the Palácio das Passagens (Palace of the Passages) or Palácio das Entradas (Palace of the Entrances), it was commissioned in 1728 by D. João V with the aim of providing overnight accommodation for Princess Dona Barbara, who was to marry D. Fernando VI of Spain, and Spanish Princess Dona Mariana Vitória, the future wife of D. José of Portugal. It was built in the record time of one year at very considerable cost. Used for various military, postal and medical purposes, it was eventually converted for use by an artillery regiment in the late nineteenth century, by decision of D. Pedro V.



CHURCH OF SANTO ANTÔNIO MAIN CHURCH OF VENDAS NOVAS

A splendid example of modernist twentieth-century Portuguese architecture. With its austere design and straight lines, the building's outstanding feature is its huge bell tower, which stands more than 20 metres high. The discreet interior boasts fabulous natural lighting thanks to the stained glass windows and the door opens on to a spacious and ample square. This is where the traditional oracle of Saint Anthony is kept, having been moved to the city centre from a hill some three kilometres away.



CHURCH OF SÃO DOMINGOS SÁVIO

This is a modernist-style Christian church which is part of the Vendas Novas Salesian College. Its oracle was a young follower of Saint John Bosco, founder and inspirer of the Salesian Order who lived in Italy in the mid-nineteenth century.



MONTEMOR OLIVE ORCHARDS AND OAK GROVES

MONTEMOR-O-NOVO

It is said that Montemor o Novo is the Alentejo on your doorstep because its geographical location is so central that it is easy to get to whichever route you choose.

And it was precisely because of this ancient crossroads that people began settling in this hamlet, the largest in the area. The whitewashed houses of the village are surrounded by extensive green fields, ancient olive orchards and abundant cork and holm oak groves.

This is a true country itinerary where authenticity abounds and where the Alentejo's greatest agricultural wealth is to be found. There are no steep hills on this route; it takes you through delightful scenarios of peaceful greenery, along easily-accessible country paths and finishes at an ecotrail that reuses the final part of a deactivated railway line. After paying a visit to the symbolic handicraft shop next to the Tourist Office, set off from Largo Calouste Gulbenkian and go past the municipal market, admiring the magnificent tile panels that dignify the rural world. Go down the street called Rua Poço do Passo (originally "Pássaro") until you reach the marble fountain in rococo style surrounded by buildings from various eras in a street that used to be called "Rua Nova" ("New Street"). Leave Montemor along Rua de Lavre and take the entrance to the old Convent of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception). Turn straight on to the dirt track on the right as soon as you pass the cross. Bounded by orchards of ancient olive trees, the track takes you

past different farm buildings, some in ruins and some still working. Take the tunnel under the motorway and keep going till you reach Ferro da Agulha, turning left next to the Herdade da Infanta, where you can stop for a rest and get some water. Now take the country path leading to the national road, which you will follow for a short stretch, taking extra care, until you come to the motorway again. Here you will find yourself in the real countryside again, with an abundance of holm oak groves and the vineyards of a distinctive hotel. There are many other farms around here too, with their well-preserved houses, painted in white with blue trim, probably a nod to the region's Moorish heritage. When you come to a farm called "Marco d'el Rei", turn left. The name is an indication of the huge importance that the Portuguese monarchs always accorded this territory. The route brings you to an old railway line that has now been converted for use as an ecotrail. It takes you into Montemor, crossing the spectacular metal bridge over the River Almansor, with wonderful views of Montemor Castle and the surrounding fields.



FACTSHEET OF THE ROUTE



NOT TO BE MISSED

MONTEMOR O NOVO HISTORICAL CENTRE

The present-day city of Montemor o Novo is located on the north slope of the castle hill, where it moved in the sixteenth century due to the need for development and progress. When the town hall was moved to the current centre in 1745, the entire town abandoned the castle and settled here, in administrative, religious, commercial and social terms.



PR4
MNN

Route: Montemor Olive Orchards and Oak Groves

Location: Montemor-o-Novo

Distance: 13,6Km

Accumulated gaps in meters: 276m

Minimum and maximum altitude in meters: Min 143m Max 253m

Approximate duration: 3h to 4h

Level of difficulty: Medium -

Type of surface: Country paths and ecotrails

Start and finish:

Largo Calouste Gulbenkian, Montemor o Novo

Geographical coordinates:

N38°38'55" W08°12'54"

Where to park: Public car park at the site

Useful Contacts: Montemor o Novo Tourist Board

Tel.: 266 898 103;

E-mail: turismo@cm-montemornovo.pt



CONVENT OF NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO

Founded in 1671, the convent was home to the Order of the Barefoot Augustinians, monks who led a life of great poverty and devotion. In the early nineteenth century it was attacked and pillaged during the French invasions, having been deactivated in 1815 and sold at a public auction in 1834. In the late 1990s, it was purchased by the current owner and now operates as a nightclub.

MONTEMOR OLIVE ORCHARDS AND OAK GROVES NOT TO BE MISSED

TRADITIONAL OLIVE GROVE

A traditional olive orchard is an extensive plantation of olive trees; in many cases, these will have been farmed for hundreds of years using age-old practices to grow the trees and harvest the olives. These olives are always of superior quality; after they are crushed in the press, the resulting olive oil is always high in quality, often with quite distinct characteristics in terms of aroma and flavour.



HOLM OAK GROVE

The oak groves are a man-made ecosystem typical of the Alentejo. They are forests of cork and holm oak with a very delicate balance and which only exist in the south of the Iberian Peninsula and in North Africa. Holm oaks are trees that produce tasty acorns which serve as fodder for the livestock grazing free in the fields.



ALMANSOR IRON RAILWAY BRIDGE

This is a fabulous piece dating from the era of iron architecture. It was designed by Engineer Gustave Eiffel's team, the Portuguese State's official supplier. The bridge crosses the Almansor River Valley. It is 106 metres long and was inaugurated in 1909. It served its purpose as a railway bridge for 79 years.



FROM ÉVORA TO ALTO DE SÃO BENTO

ÉVORA

Évora, a historic city in the heart of the Alentejo, is heir to a rich and varied cultural heritage, built and preserved over time. Monuments and noble buildings, in harmony with the popular nature of the urban fabric, make up a whole that has been Unesco World Heritage since 1986. Apart from this heritage, unlike any other in Portugal, the region around Évora has a great deal to offer visitors. One such example is the unique landscape of the Alto de São Bento, the most important viewpoint overlooking the city of Évora and the surrounding countryside.

This is a route that showcases the best of Évora and the surrounding area, since after just a short walk you have the feeling that you are in the heart of the countryside and surrounded by fabulous scenery. Leave the Porta da Lagoa car park and take the footpath towards Arraiolos, stopping next to the information panel at the start of the route. Here, if you spin round 360°, you will be able to see some of the city's heritage buildings: the arches of the aqueduct, Horta da Porta, the wall – Cerca Nova, the tower and the Convent of the Calvário. Start going along the cycle trail from which you can see, on your right, the Fortress of Santo António (Saint Anthony), the Cartuxa Monastery and the monumental section of the aqueduct. Cross the road carefully and go through the door in the wire fence. Keep going until you reach the children's playground and turn left. Go along Rua António Palolo and turn right at the end. Keep going straight ahead until you reach the section of old road, partly in stone, that connected Évora to the Monastery of São Bento de Cástris in mediaeval times. Keep going along the stone path, passing the splendid portal of Quinta das Glicínias on the left and the monumental arches of the aqueduct on the right, until you reach a crossroads with a cross. Turn left and go uphill, leaving the Monastery of São Bento de Cástris on the right. Keep going uphill until you reach Alto de S. Bento and can see the windmills. Admire the magnificent

view over the city of Évora and the surrounding area. Head downhill now along the trail to the south until you reach Quinta dos Frades da Graça. Turn right here, along the paved road leading to the municipal swimming pool. Cross the road and make your way into the Malagueira Neighbourhood through the space between Rua da Relva and Rua Álvaro de Campos, and keep going towards the Socalcos Garden. Continue alongside the conduit, cross over Rua do Arrife and keep going to the right along the trail through the green space, next to the keep-fit equipment, in the shade of the holm oak trees, without veering off. At the end of the trail, go up the stairway next to a bridge and cross the road. From here you can admire the view over the lake, the dyke and the characteristic houses of the Malagueira Neighbourhood, designed by architect Siza Vieira. Turn left to go around the lake until you reach the dyke, then take the path on the other side of the road and keep straight on between the mills on the left and the school on the right. Turn right at the end and then left when you reach the roundabout. Keep going along Avenida de S. Sebatstião, staying beside the cemetery wall on your right, until you reach the Convento dos Remédies (Convent of the Remedies). Now you can see the Alconchel Tower ahead of you. Cross the crossroads at the traffic lights and keep left, along the wall, admiring the flora and the Cerca Nova as you go, until you arrive back at the starting point.



FACTSHEET OF THE ROUTE



NOT TO BE MISSED

ÁGUA DE PRATA AQUEDUCT

The reconstruction of the Água de Prata Aqueduct was commissioned by D. João III and carried out from 1533 to 1539, under the technical direction of Francisco de Arruda. It starts at the springs of Graça do Divor and covers a distance of approximately nineteen kilometres in the direction of the city, taking the best possible advantage of the topography of the terrain. Its most monumental structure is between the Convent of S. Bento de Cástris and Rua do Cano. It is largely hidden by houses along almost the entirety of the urban part of the route.



PR1
EVR

- Route:** From Évora to Alto de São Bento
- Location:** Évora
- Distance:** 7,1Km
- Accumulated gaps in meters:** 151m
- Minimum and maximum altitude in meters:** Min 269m Max 369m
- Approximate duration:** 2h to 3h
- Level of difficulty:** Low
- Type of surface:** Country and city paths
- Start and finish:** Porta da Lagoa car park, Évora
- Geographical coordinates:** N38°34'33" W07°54'51"
- Where to park:** Public car park at the site
- Useful Contacts:** Évora Tourist Office
Tel.: +351 266 777 071
E-mail: postodeturismo@cm-evora.pt



MONASTERY OF CARTUXA

The monastery was inaugurated in 1598 and ceased functioning in 1834, having been re-opened in 1960. The façade of the temple has three floors in classic Renaissance style with a Doric portal and inspired by a Serlio engraving. The upper section was completed in the eighteenth century. The cloister of the chapels was built in the early eighteenth century in the western section. The unusually large cloister is an austere example of Baroque architecture.

FROM ÉVORA TO ALTO DE SÃO BENTO NOT TO BE MISSED

ALTO DE SÃO BENTO

Alto de São Bento is a rocky hill, legacy of an old mountain range dating back millions of years. It is the main viewpoint overlooking the city of Évora and the surrounding countryside. The hill is intricately connected to the founding and construction of Évora since the quarries dug out of its slopes provide good quality stone that was used to build the city, probably beginning in the Roman period.



MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

The park where the Municipal Swimming Pools are located was inaugurated in 1964. Designed by architect Conceição Silva, the complex, which covers more than two hectares, comprises an Olympic pool, a teaching pool, splash pools, a diving pool and an indoor pool. It also features generously-sized green spaces, including some scrubland.



MALAGUEIRA NEIGHBOURHOOD

The plan and project were drawn up by architect Siza Vieira and were brought to fruition in 1977 by means of various public, private and cooperative residential programmes. Around 1,200 dwellings were built on an approximate area of 27 hectares. The project aimed to give continuity to the intramural urban fabric and was based on three key ideas: a road running in an east-west direction connecting it to the old city, the aqueduct as an infrastructure running through the neighbourhood and the contrast between the very densely built-up areas and the open spaces.



PILGRIMAGE ROUTE TO NOSSA SENHORA DE AIRES

VIANA DO ALENTEJO

With similar features to the Basílica da Estrela in Lisbon, the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora de Aireia is a fine example of Rural Baroque, built on an old sixteenth-century chapel. The old routes to Santiago de Compostela used to pass this way, as did farmers taking their livestock to seasonal pastures, and the sanctuary is associated with promises that people made when seeking deliverance from an epidemic that raged in the region in the mid-eighteenth century.

The route takes you past old-growth olive orchards on the surface of abandoned quarries, once the source of the beautiful green Viana marble, as well as visiting the historical centre of Viana do Alentejo.

The route is a Pilgrimage Route to one of the most important Marian sanctuaries in the Alentejo. It has two sections, in a figure-of-eight format, almost making it like two routes in one. The first part takes you through the countryside around the town and past the old "Viana Green Marble" quarry, and the second includes the visit to the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora de Aires. Setting off from Viana do Alentejo's castle and walking through the streets replete with historical and architectural vestiges is merely the starting point. Go along Rua Cândido dos Reis and turn on to Rua dos Fragosos, where there are Manueline doors on both. Walk along the road and into the square called Largo dos Judeus. In Portuguese, "Judeus" means "Jews" so the name of the square is an indication of the importance of the Jewish community here in bygone days. Continue down Rua de São Pedro and leave the town along Rua do Progresso. After passing under the São Pedro road, keep going through a markedly rural area, amid small farms and olive orchards. Pay attention to the turn-offs along the way; you have to take the left-hand fork at the third fork in the road after the tunnel in order to get to the hill where you will begin to see blocks of stone, remnants of the marble quarrying activity. Cross the first area of blocks and turn right at the point where the paths meet. Continue towards the abandoned quarries that were once the source of the famous "Viana Green Marble". Keep going along the well-marked route and, if you want to see the quarry excavations from closer up, be sure to take extra safety precautions. Start heading downhill from the quarries until you reach national road EN383, which comes from Vila Nova da Baronia, and head towards Viana do Alentejo. When you arrive at the built-up area take the first right on to Estrada da Vila Nova. After the

first bend to the left, go slightly uphill on the right-hand side of the road and you will come to a footpath with a small gate. Go through the gate on to the trail (please remember to close the gate after you). People with reduced mobility should keep going straight ahead and turn on to Travessa dos Frades, to find the trail that comes from the right at the next crossroads. Open the gate to exit the trail (remember to close it behind you again) and continue to São Luís Square. Be sure to visit the traditional Taberna do Fava, on the corner. Turn right along Rua Médico de Sousa and keep going until you reach the industrial estate; turn left here and continue to the roundabout, then turn right and follow the ecotrail. Turn left at the cemetery and keep going along the road leading to the sanctuary. If you can, try to use the country paths that run parallel to the paved road. When you reach the sanctuary, spend some time visiting it. Take a look at the architectural style and the way in which stones from the Roman period were re-used to build it; and admire the altar, richly-decorated in gilt carving, and the surprising collection of offerings from worshippers of Our Lady. Turn back towards the town and take the dirt track past the ruined chapel of Senhor Jesus do Cruzeiro, a Baroque temple dedicated to the worship of Jesus Christ, which complements the Marian cult of the nearby sanctuary. Keep going until you reach municipal road EM1118, turn left and then right and follow Rua Professor Ricardo Alberty through the villa neighbourhood. Cross over Rua José Falcão and take Travessa do Instituto, Rua Afonso Costa and Rua da Figueira before finally turning right on to Rua da Amendoeira, bringing you to the door of Viana do Alentejo's castle.

FACTSHEET OF THE ROUTE



PR1
VNT

Route: Pilgrimage Route to Nossa Senhora de Aires

Location: Viana do Alentejo

Distance: 9.1Km

Accumulated gaps in meters: 193m

Minimum and maximum altitude in meters: Min 213m Max 319m

Approximate duration: 3h to 4h

Level of difficulty: Medium -

Type of surface: Country and city paths

Start and finish:

Door of Viana do Alentejo Castle

Geographical coordinates:

N38°19'56" W08°00'05"

Where to park: Parking available in the immediate vicinity, within the built-up area

Useful Contacts: Viana do Alentejo Tourist Office

Tel.: +351 266 930 012;

E-mail: dds@cm-vianadoalentejo.pt

NOT TO BE MISSED

VIANA DO ALENTEJO CASTLE

The walled castle of Viana do Alentejo is historically associated with the reign of D. Dinis (1279-1325). As a result of restoration work, believed to have been designed by Diogo de Arruda, its architectural style, now dating from the sixteenth century, comprises a pentagonal floor plan with five cylindrical towers that house the Igreja Matriz de Nossa Senhora da Anunciação (Main Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation) and the Igreja da Misericórdia (Church of Mercy) of Viana do Alentejo. Both are examples of Alentejo Late-Gothic, where the Manueline and Mudejar meet.



MANUELINE DOORS

Various houses and shops in the town have door frames and lintels in carved stone, in keeping with Manueline tastes. Contrary to the intricately decorated carved stone portals of the religious buildings, this civilian aspect tends towards simplicity and the movement of the ogee arches, with their rather s-shaped curves, which we find in the area of the lintel and the bevelled cut of the door jambs. This seems to have been an acquired taste since several imitations exist on façades on the same streets.

PILGRIMAGE ROUTE TO NOSSA SENHORA DE AIRES NOT TO BE MISSED

“VIANA GREEN MARBLE” QUARRIES

The now de-activated marble quarries are located on the hill alongside the road that connects Viana do Alentejo to Vila Nova da Baronia. They were an important source of a special type of rare and beautiful marble known as “Viana Green”, a light, white-coloured stone with veins in various tones of green running through it. The green colour is caused by copper oxide impregnating the original sedimentary rock.



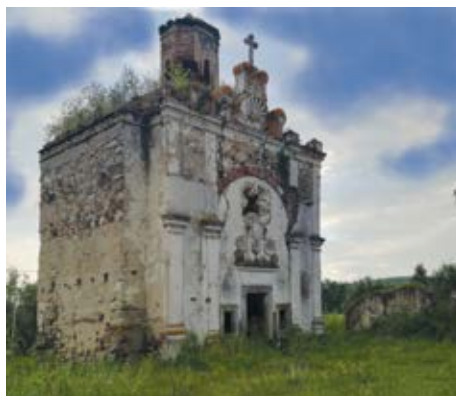
SANCTUARY OF NOSSA SENHORA DE AIRES

Built on and around a sixteenth-century chapel, the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora D’Aires gained its Baroque features between 1743 and 1804. Structurally this Marian sanctuary resembles the Basílica da Estrela in Lisbon. Inside, there is an altar with an image of Nossa Senhora D’Aires (Our Lady of Pain), one of the main local devotions. In this space, you can see a collection of votive offerings given to Our Lady over generations as means of thanking her for her intervention.



CHAPEL OF SENHOR JESUS DO CRUZEIRO

As a symbol of the communion between Mary and Christ on the Cross, the chapel of Senhor Jesus do Cruzeiro stands just a few hundred metres from the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora de Aires, together forming an important pilgrimage site in the Alentejo. The building itself is characterised by its Greek cross floor plan, its arms jutting out only slightly, and practically square in shape. It is topped by a hemispherical cupola, in the style of the traditional Alentejo vats.



WELCOME TO THE ALENTEJO

However long a walk is likely to be, it always begins with one small step. The Alentejo Tourism Board took “that step” when it began restructuring the entire region with a sustained and harmonised offering of Walking Routes in the TransAlentejo Network, in which each of the 47 municipal council participated by contributing the route that best dignifies their respective territories. The work of a vast team that gathered contributions, studied trails, compiled content and created the

final product perfectly deployed in the terrain and supported by the promotional and support documentation for the walkers. And this project, which is a work in progress, still has considerable room for growth in each of the municipalities. The Municipal Walking Route Network will form the basis of the Alentejo Walking Tourism Destination regional offering. All of this because we want your experience in the Alentejo to be as fulfilling as possible, so here is our challenge to you: Come and walk in the Alentejo!

“Whoever walks alone will get there faster, but whoever walks with others will go much farther.”

Clarice Lispector

SUPPORT



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