



Giant peacock moth (*Saturnia pyri*)

> Highlights

NATURE: in the undergrowth of the cork oak forests we find the white Spanish broom (*Cytisus multiflorus*) and the rare Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum odoratum*). Bird species: great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*), chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) and raven (*Corvus corax*). Special mention goes to the giant peacock moth (*Saturnia pyri*), the largest nocturnal moth in Europe (a wing span of up to 15 cm) and the demoiselles damselflies (*Calopteryx spp.*).

HANDICRAFT: traditional embroidery with chestnut peel; basketry in chestnut tree wood.

GASTRONOMY: soup of *sarapatel*; lamb stew; *cachafrito* of little goat; *alhada* of dogfish; thin bread with chestnuts. Sweets (chestnut cake, apple *boleima*, *aramenha* pie). Chestnut (Protected Designation of Origin).

> Recommended season

This walking path can be done throughout the year. Nevertheless, users must be aware of high temperatures during summer time and some slippery points during winter and rainy days.

> Trail signage

® FCMP

right way



wrong way



turn left



turn right



> Place of Interest

REMARKABLE CORK OAK

The geomorphological formations and the altitude of the Serra de São Mamede cause a greater retention of Atlantic moist winds, thus ensuring the existence of a hot Mediterranean climate, with some humidity, responsible for creating excellent conditions for the development and occurrence of some species. This is the case of cork oak (*Quercus suber*) which, although widely distributed throughout the country, it is here in Alto Alentejo that it establishes its domain, forming well-developed Mediterranean *montados*, with many trees of notable size.

> Walking code

Follow sign-posted trails only. / Respect private property. / Avoid making unnecessary noise. / Do not disturb the animals. / Do not collect or damage plants or rocks. / Do not litter and leave no trace of your visit. / Do not light fire and do not throw cigarettes on the ground. / Be kind to local people. / Beware of cattle. Although gentle, they do not like strangers approaching their young. / Leave the gates as you found them. If they are closed, be sure they remain well shut.

> Useful contacts

Town Hall of Marvão: +351 - 245 909 130

Municipal Tourist Office: +351 - 245 909 131

SOS Emergency: 112

SOS Forest: 117

Medical Center: +351 - 245 909 100

Anti-Poisoning Information: +351 - 217 950 143

GNR (Republican National Guard): +351 - 245 993 617

Fire Department: +351 - 245 920 135

Village Hall of Santa Maria de Marvão: +351 - 245 993 832

Promotor:



Walking path registered and approved by:



Partner institution:



Co-financing:



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WALKING PATH OF THE COFFEE SMUGGLING



PATH NETWORK IN NATURE



> Walking path description



Cork oak forest. This path crosses through one of the finest areas of cork oaks of the Serra de São Mamede Nature Park.

From the outset and despite the uneven landscape terrain, it becomes apparent that this is the kingdom of the cork oak. Continuous tree groves of this species, only interrupted by the granite outcroppings and the cultivated valleys, accompany us for most of the pathway. Along this path we will find a set of three small border towns, Galegos, Monte de Baixo and Pitaranha, which suggest a close complicity with their Spanish counterpart, La Fontañera, an area where smugglers used to traffic coffee. Narrow and winding paths, sometimes on medieval stone-paved roadways flanked by walls and hidden in the shade of leafy oak trees, were once smugglers' paths. Now, they guide us through the same landscapes but on other adventures. On the way up to Pitaranha we get views to the hill of Marvão Castle. Already on the outskirts of the village we can see part of the Porto de Roque ridge, a steep crag that is part of a narrow but long rocky ridge that extends along the border and serves as a shelter for colonies of griffon vultures, a large gliding bird which often patrols these border skies.



type of path



distance



time



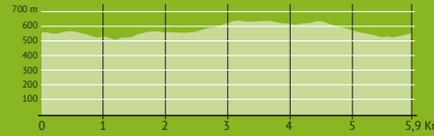
altitude variation



grading



altitude max/min



gradient profile



The difficulty level is determined according to 4 different factors, each of which is assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 (from easiest to most difficult)

difficulty level



Marvão seen from the path



Medieval Bridge of Pomar Velho



1:25000 Military Map n° 348 (Army Map Service)

Caption

- Walking path
- Asphalt road
- Watercourse

- Starting/Ending: near the cemetery, Galegos (GPS: 39°22'12, 61°N; 7°19'35, 11°W)
- Recommended direction of the walking path: clockwise
- Information on site

> Places of Interest

- 1 Smugglers' waiting area
- 2 View towards Marvão castle and geological formation
- 3 Chestnut tree area
- 4 Remarkable cork oak
- 5 Medieval stone-paved roadway
- 6 Fountain
- 7 Medieval bridge of Pomar Velho



Serra de São Mamede Nature Park

The Serra de São Mamede, which gives name to this Nature Park, is the largest mountainous formation south of the Tagus River. Due to its geographical location and the fact that it rises above 1000m, it has distinctive microclimate aspects that have allowed the establishment and survival of some animal and vegetal communities that occur here in an almost isolated manner. The Bonelli's eagle is represented in the symbol of this Protected Area. It is currently one of the rarest birds of prey found in our country.

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