



Church and Convent of N. Sr.ª da Estrela

## > Place of Interest

### CHURCH AND CONVENT OF N. SR.ª DA ESTRELA

The convent, belonging to the Order of St. Francis, was founded in about 1448. It underwent alterations in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. It has a single nave with a 17th century altar made of Estremoz marble. The main chapel contains remnants of 17th century tiles, while the chapel screen is a wonderful example of 16th century ironwork. The cross in the churchyard (a national monument) dates back to the 15th century and is in marble on granite steps. Today the convent is a residential care home for the elderly, run by the Holy House of Mercy (*Santa Casa de Misericórdia*) of Marvão.

PR1  
MRV

## WALKING IN MARVÃO



## > Highlights

**NATURE:** among the bird species, the following are worth mentioning due to their rarity: the ring ouzel, the blue rock thrush and the black wheatear. Also some birds of prey, namely the buzzard, the kestrel, the little owl and the tawny owl. Amongst the mammals are the wild boar, the civet cat, and otters in the Sever River. In the reptile family, noteworthy species include the snub-nosed viper, the Iberian frog and the Iberian emerald lizard, which are endemic to the Iberian Peninsula.

**HERITAGE:** Medieval stone-paved roadway; castle, fortifications, pillory and historic borough of Marvão; Manueline cross; Church and Convent of N. Sr.ª da Estrela; Portagem Bridge and Toll Tower.

**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



## > 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

Village Hall of Santo António das Areias: +351 - 245 992 370 / 245 920 121

Promotor:



Walking path registered and approved by:



Partner institution:



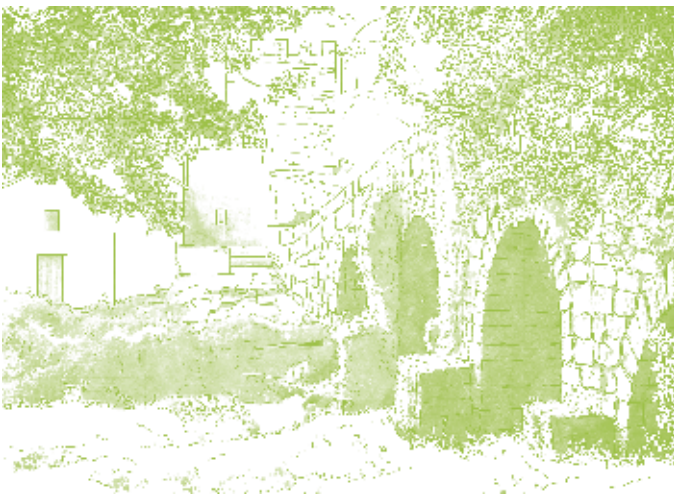
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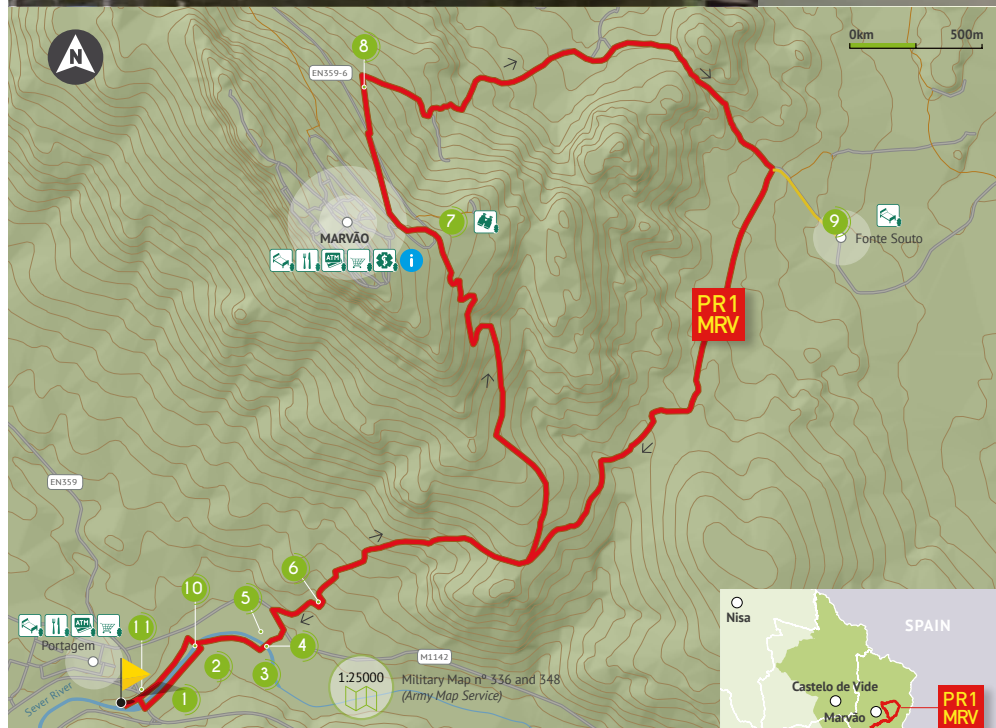
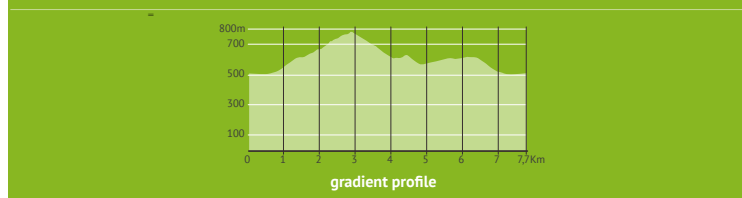


## > Walking path description



**Portagem Bridge and Toll Tower.** The old medieval bridge and the tower that used to watch and guard.

The walking path begins and ends in Largo das Almas, at the Portagem, where magnificent poplars line the banks of the Sever. Further on are small farmsteads with olive, cherry and chestnut trees. At the end of the tarred road we come to a medieval cobbled lane, possibly of Roman origin. The pathway passes through a wooded area embracing cork oak, Pyrenean oak and chestnut. As we approach Sr.<sup>a</sup> da Estrela, cork trees become more plentiful. The view is magnificent; to the southeast, the dramatic peaks of quartzite; and to the south, the Serra Selada and the Pico of São Mamede. After a short stretch of tarred road we come to another medieval road, flanked by granite walls overgrown with ivy and lichen. At the end of the cobbled lane the path turns towards Abegoa, a cluster of small houses with large chimneys. From here, the convent church of Sr.<sup>a</sup> da Estrela is visible against the backdrop of granite. From Abegoa, the path continues through a granite landscape where oaks dominate, with cork trees in drier areas. At Fonte Souto, there is a 19th century chapel worth mentioning, now derelict and deconsecrated, and two medieval tombs excavated in the rock. The pathway then meets up with the first stage of the path, passing through an important cork oak forest.



## > Places of Interest

- 1 River Pool
- 2 Portagem Toll Tower
- 3 Pontoon over Sever River
- 4 Old watermill
- 5 Palace of Araújos
- 6 Stone-paved roadway and cork oaks up to Marvão
- 7 Church and Convent of N. Sr.<sup>a</sup> da Estrela
- 8 Marvão to Abegoa - Stone-paved roadway and chestnut tree forest
- 9 Anthropomorphic graves
- 10 Medieval bridge
- 11 Cova mill



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.

**Caption**

- Walking path
- Asphalt road
- Watercourse
- Recommended direction of the walking path: clockwise

**Starting/Ending:** Almas square, Portagem (GPS: 39°22'55, 55"N; 7°23'01, 24"W)

- Accommodation
- Restaurant
- Pharmacy
- ATM
- Market
- Landscapes
- Tourist office

