



Sundew (*Drosophyllum lusitanicum*)

> Place of Interest

CASTLE OF ALEGRETE

Set on top of a rocky hill more than 500m high, towering and dominant over the surrounding landscape, along with other castles of the defensive line of Alentejo, it ensured the maintenance and the protection of these agitated and rarely peaceful borders of the kingdom. Of unknown origins, prior to the conquering expeditions of D. Afonso Henriques, it was first mentioned during the reign of D. Afonso III, in 1267, in the Badajoz Conference. This led to its integration into the Portuguese crown, cemented 30 years later with the signing of the Treaty of Alcañices. In 1319, D. Dinis granted a charter to Alegrete, an event believed to coincide with the construction of the medieval fortification.

PR3
PTG

WALKING PATH OF ALEGRETE



PATH NETWORK IN NATURE

> Highlights

NATURE: Fauna: Mediterranean turtle, linnet, otter. Flora: *montados* of cork oak, pine forests, alder and ash along the water courses; royal fern and sundew (insectivorous plant).

HERITAGE: Alegrete: Castle (ruins) (NM – 14th century); Parish Church of São João Baptista (16th – 18th centuries); Church of Misericórdia (17th century); Clock Tower (17th century).

HANDICRAFT: rag dolls; Portalegre tapestries (Portalegre stitch); basketry of Portalegre; *adufe* from Portalegre.

GASTRONOMY: grain baked with pods - Alentejo's way; cod *albardado*; *cachola*; rabbit in wine and garlic; fried hare. Sweets (blancmange, *toucinho-do-céu*, almond lamprey, candy eggs). Cherry from São Julião (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 Portalegre: +351 - 245 307 400/1

Municipal Tourist Office: +351 - 245 307 445

SOS Emergency: 112

SOS Forest: 117

Medical Center: +351 - 245 302 050

Hospital: +351 - 245 301 000

Anti-Poisoning Information: +351 - 217 950 143

GNR (Republican National Guard): +351 - 245 609 320

PSP (Public Security Police): +351 - 245 300 620

Fire Department: +351 - 245 307 000

Village Hall of Alegrete: +351 - 245 965 134

Promotor:



Walking path registered and approved by:



Partner institution:



Co-financing:



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Walking path description



Castle of Alegrete. Although with the ruined tower, the castle is an excellent viewpoint.

This circular walking path starts and ends next to the Nova Fountain, a pleasant riverside recreation area in Alegrete, and offers a variety of settings. It runs through part of one of the most humanized Nature Parks of the country, which here has a landscape strongly influenced by human activities. It is precisely this characteristic that we see along the way: a mixed forest of maritime pine and eucalyptus, *montados*, olive groves, vineyards and vegetable gardens. The rockrose fields are also present, as well as some viewing angles from the highest points of the mountain, where the Pico de São Mamede is located. One of the most refreshing sections of the path follows the banks of Ribeira Arronches, which flows along in the shade of alders, willows, *sanguinhos* and cherry trees. The points of interest remind us of long-abandoned farming practices: threshing-floors, apiary walls, dams and *levadas*. The diversity of agro-systems is complemented by the diversity of habitats.



circular

type of path

10.7^{Km}

distance

4.00^H

time



225^m

altitude variation

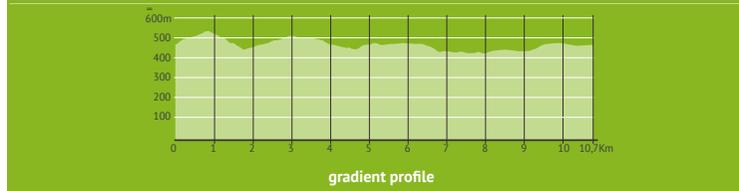
III
moderate



grading

537^m
▲
429^m

altitude max / min





2



2



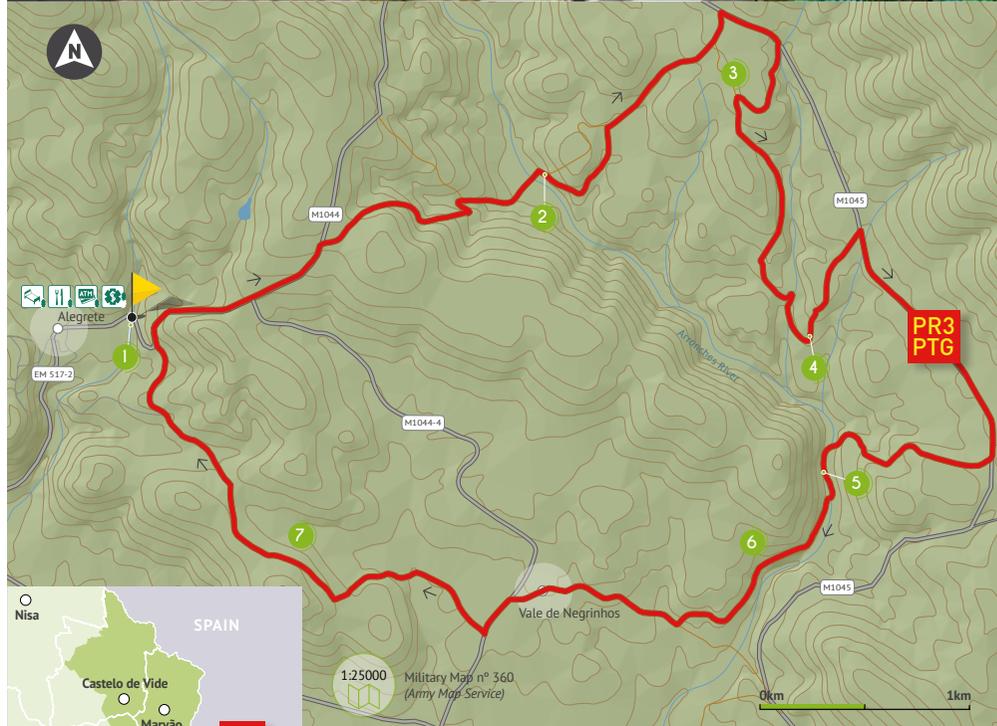
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The difficulty level is determined according to 4 different factors, each of which is assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 (from easiest to most difficult)

difficulty level



Caption

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

Starting / Ending: close to the Nova Fountain of Alegrete
(GPS: 39°14'27,36"N; 7°19'07,69"W)

 Accommodation
  ATM
 Restaurant
  Pharmacy

Places of Interest

- 1 Nova Fountain
- 2 Threshing-floors
- 3 Monte alentejano
- 4 Threshing-floor
- 5 Ribeira de Arronches
- 6 Apiary wall
- 7 Rural landscape



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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