



Gazpacho from Alentejo

> Place of Interest

ROMAN BRIDGE OF VILA FORMOSA

Legend has it that in a pact with the Devil, a shepherd sold his soul in exchange for a bridge to save his cattle from a deadly famine. When the devil was laying the last stone, a black rooster was born and crowed, to which the devil said, "With this I do not mess", fleeing without fulfilling the pact. It is said that the stone is still there and that it falls each time someone tries to put it in place. Now a National Monument, the Roman bridge of Vila Formosa was built at the end of the first century on the road linking *Olisipo* (Lisbon) to *Emerita* (Mérida), passing by *Abelterium* (now Alter do Chão village - 204 BC) mentioned in *Itinerarium Antonino*. An ode to resistance, it counts millennia of crossings.

PR1 ALT WALKING PATH "LOOKING OVER SEDA RIVER"



> Highlights

NATURE: along Seda River: willow (*Salix atrocinerea*), ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*), poplar (*Populus spp*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and gadwall (*Anas strepera*). Otter (*Lutra lutra*).

HERITAGE: Roman bridge of Vila Formosa. Bridge of Mendes. At Seda: castle (vestiges of its ramparts and Parish Church).

HANDICRAFT: saddlery; stuffing with bulrush and straw; works in brass.

GASTRONOMY: yellow rice (saffron) with lamb stew; purslane with egg; gazpacho from Alentejo. Aromatic herbs: safflower, bay leaf, coriander, oregano. Saffron liqueur.

> Recommended season

This walking path can be done at any time of the year but users must take some precautions with the high temperatures that are common during the summer. During periods of greater precipitation, caution is recommended in crossing the streams of Seda and Alfeijós using the stepping-stones. Occasionally, during the winter, it may be impossible to cross the Seda River due to the strong currents.

> 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 Alter do Chão: +351 245 610 000

Municipal Tourist Office: +351 245 610 004

SOS Emergency: 112

SOS Forest: 117

Medical Center: +351 245 619 160

Anti-Poisoning Information: +351 217 950 143

GNR (Republican National Guard): +351 245 612 162

Fire Department: +351 245 612 314

Village Hall of Seda: +351 245 636 116

Village Hall of Chança: +351 245 630 020

Promotor:



Walking path registered and approved by:



Partner institution:



Co-financing:



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> Walking path description



Roman bridge of Vila Formosa - National Monument. Built at the end of the 1st century / early 2nd century AD. It was part of the road that linked *Olisipo* (Lisbon) to *Emerita* (Mérida).

Seda is the village that serves as starting point for this walking path. The churchyard of the Parish Church, facing to the west, is a scenic viewpoint: to the east, Alter do Chão and Alter Pedroso; to the south, Evoramonte, and to the west runs the Seda River, the source of which lies to the northeast in the Serra de São Mamede, and which we will follow from here.

Let us take a while to walk through the village, finding the remains of its ancient walls and going to its northern end where, next to the Chapel of São João we find another space that serves as a viewpoint. We go down a stone-paved road, till we reach the left bank of Seda River, surrounded by a magnificent riverside forest. Ahead, we reach the deactivated road that leads us to the extraordinary Roman bridge of Vila Formosa. Back at the bank of the river, we soon cross it through an extensive set of stepping stones. We will pass by the Bridge of Mendes, a schist construction on the Alfeijós River, of uncertain origin but its current form goes back to medieval times. We again cross the same stream just before we pass through small farmlands that signal our arrival at Chança, where the path ends.

VARIANT PR1.1 ALT

Distance: 4,9km | **Time:** 1h45m

Starting from Seda and crossing its river to the right bank, the path follows the direction of the water course. In the initial part, it crosses new vineyards and olive groves in the Herdade of Vale de Barqueiros. Soon afterwards, it returns to the river's riparian gallery. The path ends at the boundary between the municipalities of Alter do Chão and Avis.

A → B
linear

type of path

10.5 Km

distance

3.45^H

time

uphill
167 m

altitude variation

II
easy

grading

193^m
▲
136^m

altitude max/min

gradient profile

environmental awareness **2** | regeneration **2** | type of ground **2** | physical effort **3**

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

Seda River

Vineyards

> Places of Interest

- 1 Seda River
- 2 Roman bridge of Vila Formosa
- 3 Water mill
- 4 bridge of Mendes
- 5 Alfeijós River

Cabeção Special Area of Conservation

With 48,607 ha, this Special Area of Conservation is characterized by its gentle terrain, the main habitat of which is the *montado* with an undergrowth of pasture land, used extensively for livestock raising. It plays a leading role in the conservation of the (*Halimium umbellatum* var. *verticillatum*), an endemic plant which has over 60% of its distribution area in this Special Area.

Caption

- Walking path
- Asphalt road
- Watercourse
- Variant

▶ **Starting:** on the churchyard of the Parish Church, Seda (GPS: 39°11'26,97"N; 7°47'20,29"W)
▶ **Ending:** Public Garden, Chança (GPS: 39°14'54, 11" N; 7°49'07, 15 "W)
▶ **Recommended direction of the walking path:** South - North

🍽️ Restaurant

🏪 Pharmacy

🌿 Landscape

🏪 Market

🏧 ATM

📄 Information on site