



Sericaia with plums

## > Place of Interest

### ANCIENT LIME-KILNS

Calcium oxide, better known as lime, is one of the most important and typical materials of construction in the Alentejo. It is obtained by thermal decomposition of limestone at 900°C. It is then used in the preparation of fluid mortars which serve to whitewash and mark the urban landscape of the region. The houses rise in white, and churches and fountains, plastered with the same mortar, alternate in colour with the crystalline greys of the granites. It was around the ancient artisanal lime-kilns that the steps of extracting, producing and transforming the limestone into the whitish substance took place. Heated in a wood oven dug in the ground, coated by brick and schist, the rock is transformed into the quicklime that covers the region.

## PR3 CMR BORDER WALKING PATH AMONG LIME AND HONEY



PATH NETWORK IN NATURE

## > Highlights

**NATURE:** Caia and São Mamede SAC\*. The Abrilongo River riparian gallery, with poplars, alders, ash, willows and oleanders (*Nerium oleander*), blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), Cetti's warbler (*Cettia cetti*), nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) and kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*). In the river we find the little and rare saramugo (*Anaocypris hispanica*), a fish exclusive to the Guadiana River basin. \*Special Area of Conservation.

**HERITAGE:** Ouguela: Castle and bastion fort; Church (with eighteenth-century wall painting depicting St. John the Baptist); Santa Fountain.

**HANDICRAFT:** wrought iron; paper flowers; objects in card (plough, sickle, dishes); hand-painted clay ware.

**GASTRONOMY:** chickpea with meat; olive (Protected Designation of Origin). Sweets (*sericaia* with plums, *tosquiados*, crumpled cakes, nougat and tortillas with almond, chickpea and chila).

## > Recommended season

This walking path can be done throughout the year. Nevertheless, users must be aware of high temperatures during the summer time. Caution is advised with the water levels during floods and longer periods of rainfall.

## > 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 Campo Maior: +351 268 680 300

Municipal Tourist Office: +351 268 689 367

SOS Emergency: 112

SOS Forest: 117

Medical Center: +351 268 699 700

Anti-Poisoning Information: +351 217 950 143

GNR (Republican National Guard): +351 268 680 390

Fire Department: +351 268 686 227

Village Hall of N. Sr.ª da Graça dos Degolados: +351 268 685 153

Village Hall of São João Baptista: +351 268 688 860

Promotor:



Walking path registered and approved by:



Partner institution:



Co-Financiamento:



July 2015 / 2500 copies



## > Walking path description



Interpretation Centre of Nature, Honey and Biodiversity (Homestead of Adães). A project for a sustainable future.

From the bastions of Ouguela it is possible to sight the location to the west where this pathway ends. The path starts by going down a large road between traditional olive groves that quickly puts us on the bank of Abrilongo River, which we cross over using some stepping-stones. For a kilometre we follow the river upstream and with its riparian forest at our side. Then we turn to the border. The soil acquires reddish tones indicating a change in the local geology. We will soon come upon the ruins of ancient lime-kilns that transformed limestone into lime. Then, we align our course with that of the border, always watched by olive trees that line this side of the border. Once more, we cross the Abrilongo River and then we enter the Herdade dos Adães. In addition to an excellent *montado*, when we reach the Interpretation Centre of Nature, Honey and Biodiversity, we realize that the corporate management of the estate is oriented towards specific environmental goals: from the organic production process to biodiversity conservation and environmental awareness. We say goodbye to this centre and move towards Degolados, the end of the path. We are 8 km away from Campo Maior.

A → B  
linear

type of path

15.7<sup>Km</sup>

distance

5.45<sup>H</sup>

time

uphill  
131<sup>m</sup>

altitude variation

III  
moderate

●●●○○

grading

306<sup>m</sup>  
▲  
203<sup>m</sup>

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



Ouguela



Herdade dos Adães



1:25000 Military Map n° 386 (Army Map Service)

### Caption

- Walking path
- Asphalt road
- Watercourse
- Path intersection

- ▲ Starting: Ouguela's Praça da República (GPS: 39°04'47, 11"N; 7°01'52, 81"W)
- ▲ Ending: Nossa Senhora da Graça dos Degolados (GPS: 39°03'36, 46"N; 7°07'14, 57"W)
- Recommended direction of the walking path: East - West
- Accommodation
- Pharmacy
- ATM
- Market
- Landscape
- Information on site

## > Places of Interest

- 1 Ouguela
- 2 Geomorphology of Abrilongo River valley
- 3 Ancient Lime-kilns
- 4 The Border
- 5 Herdade dos Adães
- 6 Interpretation Centre of Nature, Honey and Biodiversity



### Campo Maior Special Protection Area

This is an area of almost 9600 ha of open and scattered *montado*, agricultural areas mainly for growing cereal crops, and where the Abrilongo and Xévoira rivers flow. It is a critical area for the conservation of steppe birds - great bustard (*Otis tarda*) and little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*), along with other bird species that deserve mention: black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), red kite (*Milvus milvus*) and black-winged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*). The area is important for the wintering of cranes (*Grus grus*).