



Santa Margarida do Sado

The village probably dates back to pre-historic times, bearing in mind its special location next to the Rio Sado. There are many remains from the Roman period, with a number of barrel-shaped tombstones or *cupas* belonging to a Roman temple, as well as the dross from metallurgy processes of the minerals extracted in the region and exported by river.

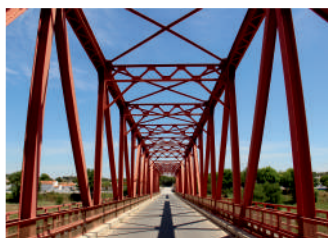


Church of St Margaret

The name of the church refers to the proto-Christian martyr Margaret of Antioch in Pisidia (A.D. 275 – 290), a young Christian woman who never yielded to the martyrs of paganism. The name accords with the Roman presence, which was certainly already Christianised, and with the later search for, or use of, ancient references when the area was finally Christianised.

Eat here!

Meals and snacks are very appealing in Ferreira do Alentejo. You can have lunch or dinner in a restaurant or have a snack in a tavern or in one of the cafés in the traditional Alentejo style that can be found in the municipality.



Metal Road Bridge

The bridge that provides access to Santa Margarida for people coming from the north is one of the village's trademarks. Opened in 1938 on the EN259 national road, this is an iron structure comprising two metal spans that are simply supported, on which a three-dimensional structure is seated that is 8m in height, 5.9m in width and 50m in length. The bridge was renovated at the start of the 21st century; it is red in colour, which makes it stand out in the countryside.



Sado River

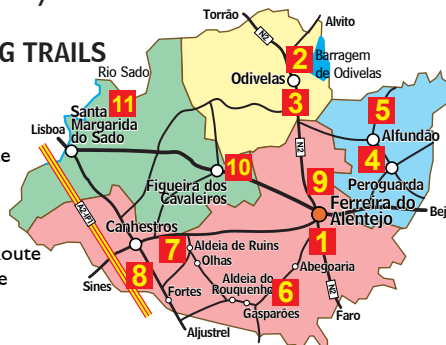
Also known as the Ribeira do Sádão, the river has very special characteristics as it rises in a diffuse manner from small springs in the uplands of the Serra da Vigia and flows from south to north for some 180Km, almost always in low-lying places, thereby creating a huge hydrographic basin that has been essential for human settlement and survival for millennia.

The municipality of Ferreira do Alentejo is located in the Lower Alentejo, exactly halfway between the Atlantic coast and the border with Spain. With an area of 648.25 km² and a population of 7,850, the municipality has a strong focus on agriculture, in the form of both traditional cultivation of olive trees and the cork oak forests of the montado, and modern cultivation using irrigation. There are traces of occupation by humans since the Middle Palaeolithic, with the region being used throughout all the periods of pre-history and history.



PR - SHORT WALKING TRAILS

- PR1 Eagle Hill Route
- PR2 Water Route
- PR3 Stone Route
- PR4 Michel Giacometti Route
- PR5 Lake of Ducks Route
- PR6 "Montes" Route
- PR7 Old Villages Route
- PR8 Cork Oak "Montado" Route
- PR9 Farms and Estates Route
- PR10 Olive Oil Route
- PR11 Sado River Route



CONDUCT AND SAFETY

This trail is reserved for walkers only. Walk in a group; avoid going alone. Wear a hat and suitable clothing and footwear for your intended walk. Take a backpack with plenty of food and water. Be respectful of public and private property. Leave gates and barriers the way you found them. Avoid using plastic items and dispose of rubbish in the proper places. No naked flames or lighting fires of any kind. Make use of local services for overnight stays, meals and shopping.



Ferreira do Alentejo Municipal Council

Telf +351 284 738 700

geral@cm-ferreira-alentejo.pt



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SADO RIVER

ROUTE

Walking Trails of

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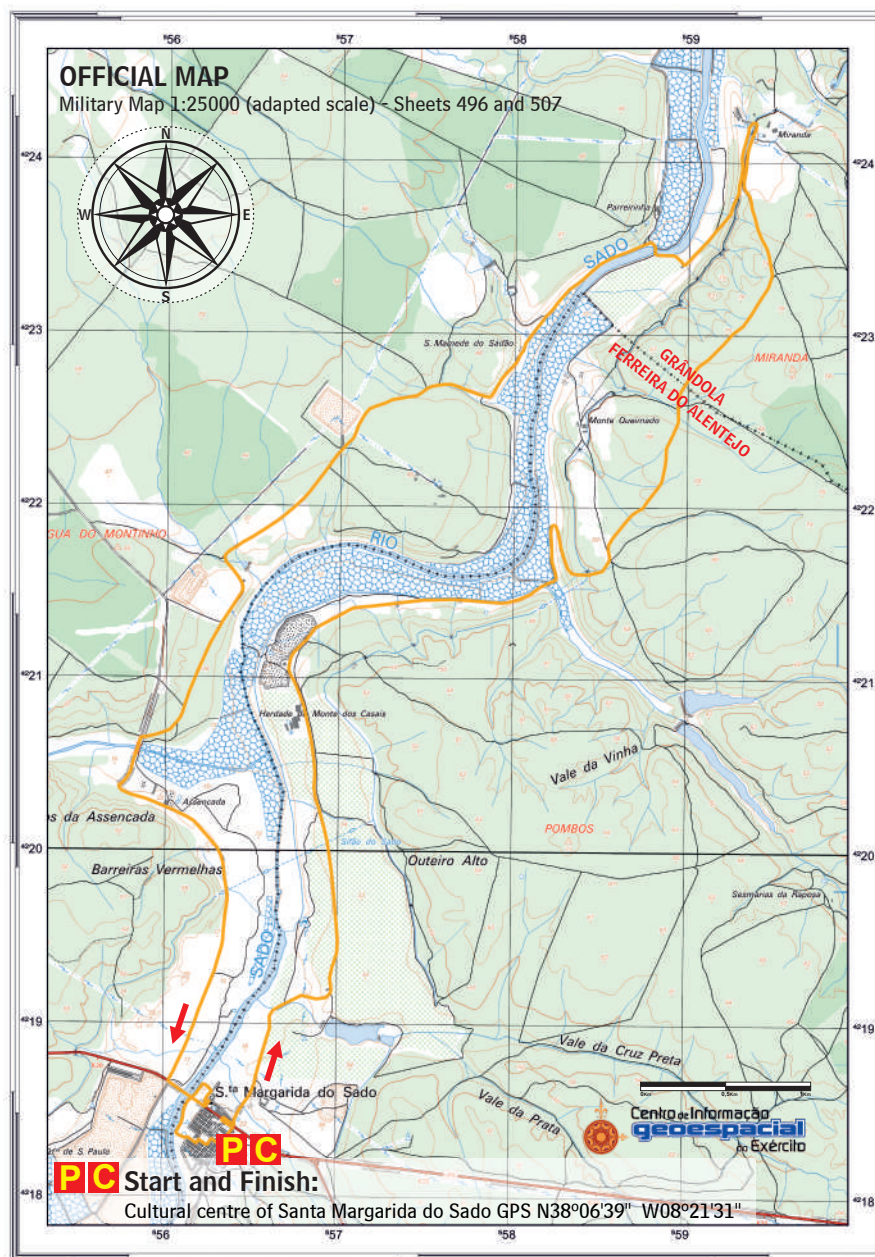
18 km

Loop

5 to 6 hours

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We are close to the Sado River, also known as Sádão in the past, and the village of Santa Margarida is a gateway to the land to the south of the river, which was easily navigable as far as here in Roman times. These were Roman lands of great importance, with the settlement of noble families who ran a smelting business of metals which were then exported via the river. The Rio Sado now plays an important role in rice production, in the extraction of sand, and as the southernmost sports fishing site in Portugal.

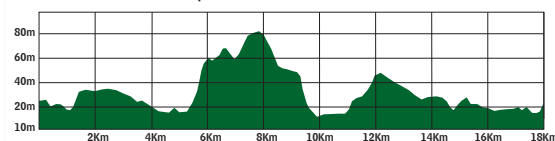


POINTS OF INTEREST

Village of Santa Margarida do Sado
Forest of cork and holm oak
Church of São Mamede do Sádão
Sado river
Rice fields
Metal road bridge
Church of Santa Margarida

ALTITUDE GRAPH

Check the relationship between distance and altitude scales.



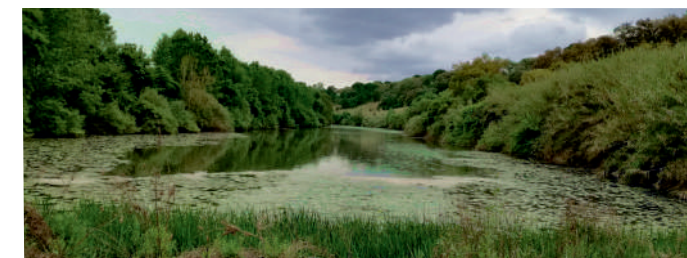
DATA SHEET

Path: Loop.
Distance: 18 km.
Accumulated elev.: 263 m.

Duration: 5 to 6 hours.
Difficulty: Medium.
Surface: Country paths.
Season: All year.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAIL

Leave the Cultural Centre of Santa Margarida do Sado, go around the garden and the sportsground, continue through the houses until you cross the IP8 at the pedestrian crossing. Turn right and, where the houses end, turn left onto a rural track. Continue walking along the road that follows the left bank of the Rio Sado, sometimes through wide olive plantations, sometimes through woods of cork oaks. When you reach Monte Miranda, turn sharp left towards the Rio Sado and cross the river over a small bridge, and continue to the left. Pass by the ruins of the Chapel of São Mamede do Sádão and follow the right bank of the Rio Sado along a rural track through fields of oak montado, pine trees and rice. Go as far as the IP8 national road and turn left, crossing the iconic metal bridge. After the bridge, turn left, visit the Roman remains next to the Church of St Margaret, walk down until you are close to the Rio Sado and turn left, passing under the bridge. Go past the fishing site as far as the smallholdings and turn left, walking up as far as the garden on the riverside and from there continue to the Cultural Centre.



SIGNAGE



FCMP - Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal

EMERGENCY

Emergency 112
Fire Alert 117
Environment 808 200 520
GNR SEPNA sepna@gnr.pt