

POINTS OF INTEREST



The Village of Odivelas

The history of the village certainly dates back to the Roman period, having been a crossing point for the imperial road connecting Beja to Alcácer do Sal as early as the second century. With about 500 inhabitants, it has the particularity of being situated on a hill that rises above the surrounding countryside, creating a natural viewpoint over the vast plain and standing watch over the Odivelas Stream.



Croplands

The fertile plains, irrigated sometimes by water from the Odivelas Reservoir and sometimes from the Alqueva Reservoir, are today extensive croplands where hundreds of hectares of orange, almond and olive groves stand out. Vast cereal fields where livestock fodder is grown, as well as extensive grazing land can also be seen.



The Odivelas Dam

An endlessly beautiful reflecting pool stretches along the Odivelas Stream in the form of a reservoir that stores water essential for the irrigation of the surrounding croplands, and also serves as a leisure space for nautical activities. The dam came into service in 1972; its wall rises to a height of 55 metres, its crest is 500 metres long and its capacity is 96 million cubic metres.



The Odivelas Stream

Rising in the hills of the Serra do Mendro, the Odivelas Stream flows into the River Sado after about 70 km. Currently, the flow is controlled by the Odivelas and Albergaria dos Fusos dams, important water resources for agricultural irrigation. The stretches of the stream located outside the reservoirs are important riparian galleries and habitats of many different plant and animal species.



Cork Oak and Holm Oak

A man-made ecosystem characteristic of the Alentejo, these cork and holm oak forests are very delicately balanced. Cork oaks are robust trees and their bark – the cork – has enormous commercial value. Holm oaks produce acorns of excellent flavour that serve as an important food for cattle and are also used as firewood for charcoal production.



The Church of Santo Estevão

Located at the highest point of the village, the church is one of its oldest buildings, its construction dating back to the 17th century. The church's original floor plan and the balcony, protected at the corners by small cylindrical towers and turrets, in popular style, typical of the Manueline – Renaissance transition, are thought to date from the time of construction. The tile panels and the gilded altars, were added in the aftermath of the destruction caused by the 1755 earthquake.



Odivelas Baskets

The Odivelas Stream and the extensive flooded areas around it give rise to the abundant growth of reeds that the artisans harvest in the traditional manner using the skills handed down to them from generations past. The reeds are then dried, dyed and artfully woven to create the highly original Odivelas Straw Baskets. Handy for day-to-day use as shopping or picnic baskets, they are today considered cultural heritage and a local craft with enormous value on a national scale.

Eat here!

Meals and snacks are very appealing in Odivelas. You can have lunch or dinner in a restaurant or have a snack in one of the several Alentejo cafes that exist in the centre of the village. In addition to savouring the food, you will experience the way of life of the people of Odivelas, especially in the late afternoon when everyone is in fine spirits and they all get together to enjoy a good glass of wine. Be adventurous and come and get acquainted with Odivelas, using your feet and your taste buds!



HOW TO GET HERE

The municipality of **Ferreira do Alentejo** is located in the Baixo Alentejo region, precisely halfway between the Atlantic coast and the border with Spain. The county seat, Vila de Ferreira do Alentejo, is 24km from Beja (~ 20 minutes) on the national road IP8.

From the North

Take the A1 as far as Santarém, cross the Tagus River at Ponte das Lezírias and take the A13 as far as Marateca. Take the A2 as far as the Grândola Sul exit and then take the A26 or IP8.

From Lisbon

Cross the Tagus River on the Vasco da Gama Bridge and take the A12. Alternatively, cross the 25th of April Bridge and take the A2 as far as the Grândola Sul exit and take the A26 or IP8.

From the South

Take the A2 as far as the Castro Verde exit, then take the IP2 to Castro Verde and finally by the legendary Estrada Nacional EN2, passing through Aljustrel.

From Évora

Take the EN254 national road towards Viana do Alentejo and then the EN258 national road towards Alvão. Finally by the legendary Estrada Nacional EN2, which passes through Odivelas, already in Ferreira do Alentejo territory.

From Spain

Cross the border at Rosal de la Frontera / Vila Verde de Ficalho and take the IP8, passing through Serpa and Beja until reaching Ferreira do Alentejo.

Public Transport to Ferreira do Alentejo

Bus: www.rede-expressos.pt or www.rodalentejo.pt
Train: www.cp.pt Stations: Beja (24km), Cuba (23km), Ermidas (28km)
Taxi: Near the bus station



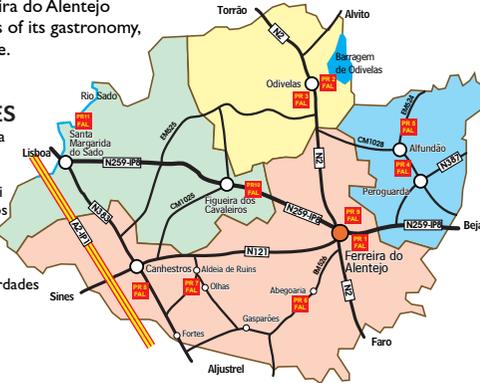
FERREIRA DO ALENTEJO WALKING TRAILS

Welcome to **Ferreira do Alentejo**, where you will find a well-structured network of 11 walking routes, distributed throughout the territory, and have access to the different rural and natural landscapes and the historical and cultural heritage.

Choose to stay in Ferreira do Alentejo and discover the secrets of its gastronomy, arts and local knowledge.

PR - SHORT ROUTES

- PR1 Rota do Cerro da Água
- PR2 Rota da Água
- PR3 Rota da Pedra
- PR4 Rota Michel Giacometti
- PR5 Rota da Lagoa dos Patos
- PR6 Rota dos Montes
- PR7 Rota das Aldeias
- PR8 Rota do Montado
- PR9 Rota das Quintas e Herdades
- PR10 Rota do Azeite
- PR11 Rota do Rio Sado



INITIATIVE OF



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PROJECT



PROGRAMA DE DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL 2014-2020



PORTUGAL 2020



UNião Europeia
Fundo Europeu Agrícola de Desenvolvimento Rural
A Europa Investe nas Zonas Rurais

MAPS



REGISTRATION APPROVAL



www.ferreiradoalentejo.pt



**PR 2
FAL**

WATER ROUTE
Percursos Pedestres
Walking Trails

FERREIRA DO ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL



**PR 2
FAL**

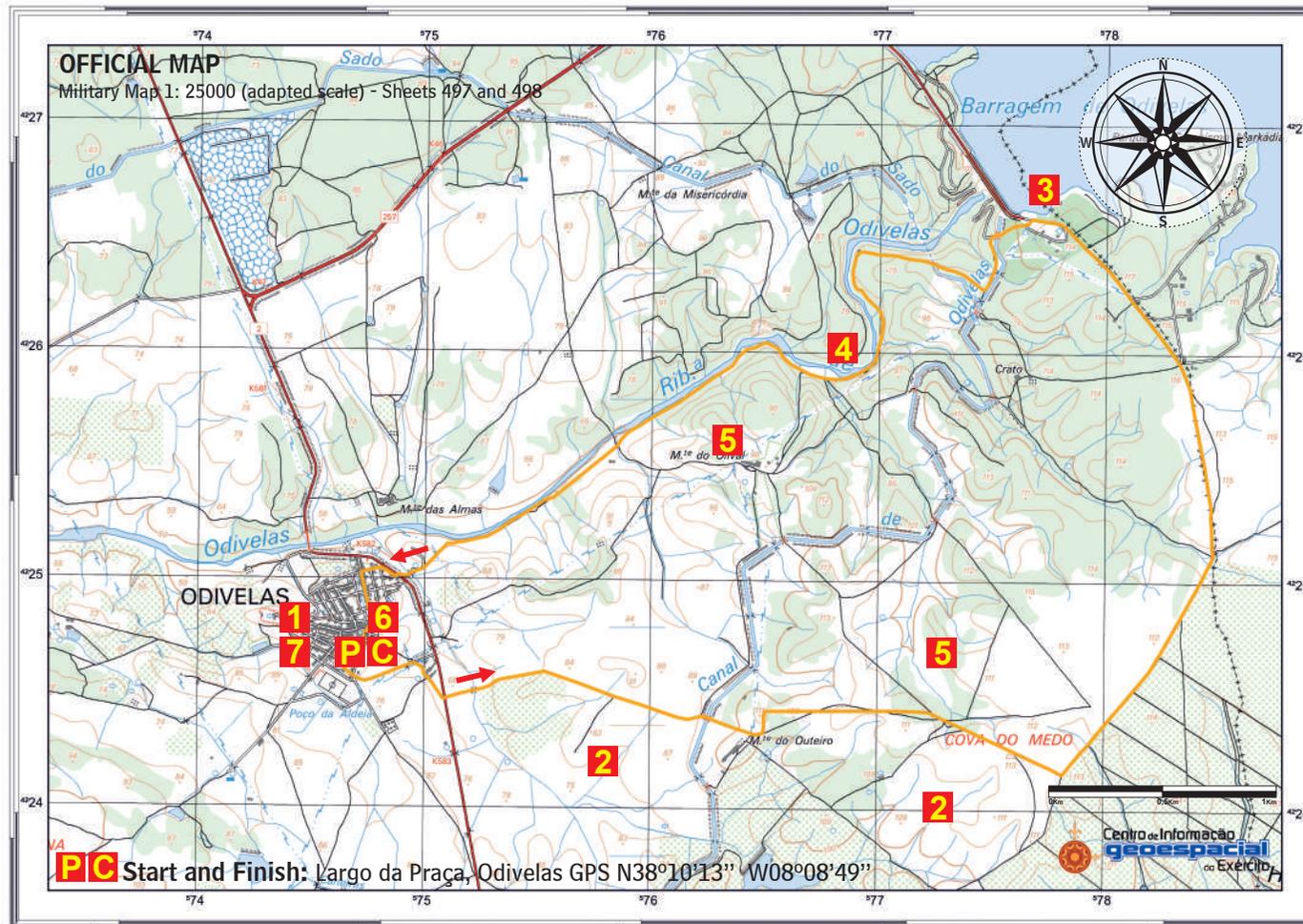
WATER ROUTE Percursos Pedestres

 Walking Trails

FERREIRA DO ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL

**11.3 km
Loop
3 to 4 hours
●●○○○**

These are the great plains that once glowed in the sun with a golden mantle of cereals, dotted with centenary olive groves and scattered holm oaks. Nowadays, the landscapes are becoming greener with the successive advances in irrigation and you will see the new hedgerow olive groves, as well as orange orchards and almond trees. At the top of the hill, the village of Odivelas stands watch over all these fields and the stream named after it that has always been the reason for the inhabitants of this territory settling here.



DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAIL

Leave Largo da Praça along Rua da Parreira and then along Rua da Estrada Nova. Pass by the Odivelas Cultural Centre and turn right before the farm buildings. Follow a small section of country road and cross the famous EN2 National Road with the utmost care. Follow the country path next to the place where the ruins of the Roman Villa of Folha da Amendoeira are buried, cross the irrigation channel and go through part of the orange grove. Right after the houses on the hill, turn left, where agricultural implements are usually found, and take a long path on your right that leads you between rows of young orange trees until you reach the fence of the neighbouring property, which you should then follow. Pass by the geodesic dome and, at the corner of the fence, turn left, always staying alongside it, flanking an immense olive grove stretching out on your right-hand side. To the left of the fence is a gate that is usually open; go through it and continue straight ahead over vast fields dotted with holm oaks. On your right you will see the Markádia Campsite and, farther ahead, you will come to the Odivelas Dam wall. Take the path on the left that is immediately before the dam and, after crossing the channel, turn immediately to the left and go through a thick patch of trees. Turn on to the path on the right and, next to the spillway, pass the fence and begin the descent on your right, down to the Odivelas Stream. Once you reach the left bank of the stream, keep going alongside it until you see Odivelas, at which point it is time to cross the EN2 National Road again. Take the first right on to the Travessa do Forno da Cal and keep going until you reach Rua da Saudade. Dating from bygone days, this is the main road leading to the top of the hill where the Church of Santo Estêvão is located. After admiring the church, take Rua da Igreja (which means "Church Street") to the centre of Odivelas.

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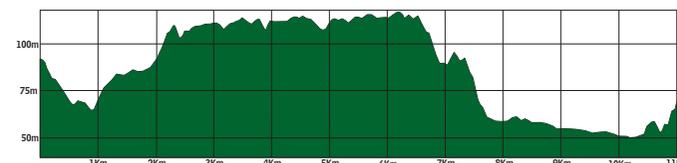
- 1** The Village of Odivelas
- 2** Croplands
- 3** The Odivelas Dam
- 4** The Odivelas Stream
- 5** Cork Oak and Holm Oak
- 6** The Church of Santo Estêvão
- 7** Odivelas Baskets

DATA SHEET

Trail type: Loop
Distance: 11.3 km
Accumulated elevation: 205m
Duration: 3 to 4 hours
Difficulty: Medium(-)
Surface: Country paths
Season: All year

ALTITUDE GRAPH

Check the relationship between distance and altitude scales.



SIGNAGE



EMERGENCY

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