



Canhestros, Fortes Novas and Fortes Velhas

The villages on this route are part of the Union of Civil Parishes of Ferreira do Alentejo and Canhestros. The fields of Canhestros are mainly covered with cork oak *montado* or cereal-growing steppe. The villages of Fortes have been closely connected with irrigated cultivation and agro-industrial activity, the growing of tomatoes until the beginning of this century, and olives nowadays.



Sequeiro Dam

The need for water in these fields which are not reached by large-scale irrigation is met by small dams across water courses in different places, which create reservoirs for supplying water to the cultivated areas nearby. They normally hold water during the rainy period and are sometimes completely dry in the hot season.

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.



Region of Cork Oak

Region of Cork Oak *Montado* and Cork is the classification identifying the fact that more than 15% of the land in the municipality of Ferreira do Alentejo is covered by cork oak *montados* (oak forests) and is one of the main cork-producing areas in the country. Canhestros is one of the villages in the municipality with the biggest area of *montado*.



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 firewood for charcoal production.

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.



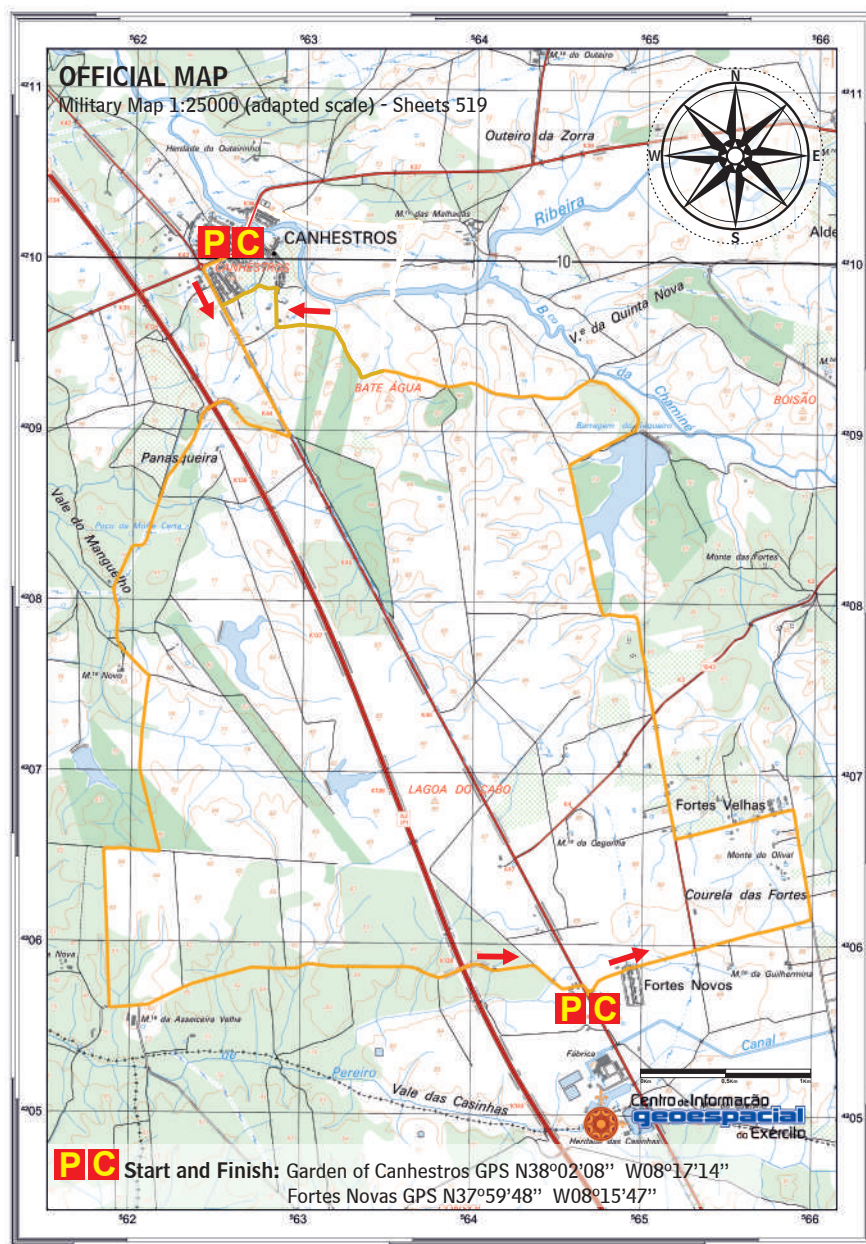
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An area with the typical appearance of holm oak and cork oak *montado*, on land that is dominated by dryland farming, with wide fields of cereal crops alternating with small scale farms that have been inhabited for generations. The walk passes through old agricultural villages that have been transformed these days into typical villages where time appears to have stopped and the bright, whitewashed walls stand out.

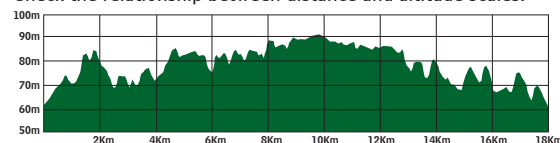


POINTS OF INTEREST

Village of Canhestros
Region of cork oak "Montado"
Forest of cork and holm oak
Fortes Novas and Fortes Velhas
Sequeiro dam
Cereal-growing steppes
Eucalyptus

ALTITUDE GRAPH

Check the relationship between distance and altitude scales.



DATA SHEET

Path: Loop.
Distance: 18 km.
Accumulated elev.: 254 m.
Duration: 5 to 6 hours.
Difficulty: Medium (+).

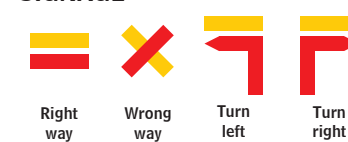
Surface: Country paths and secondary roads.
About 1.1 km along the side of the national road.
Season: All year.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAIL

The walk passes through Canhestros and Fortes and, as it is circular, you can start in either place, where there is an information panel. In this description, we suggest that you start from Canhestros. Leave the garden, cross the road with great care, turn right and proceed as far as the roundabout. Turn left and continue with great care along the EN383 national road for about 1.1 km until you come to a turning to the right. Go over the A2 motorway and turn to the south into a huge area of montado oak forest, open fields and pine forests, paying close attention to the signs. Take a slight turning to the right, and turn right at the first T-junction and then turn left twice, crossing the motorway again and then arriving in Fortes Novas. Walk past the village heading east as far as the last junction on the rural road. Turn left at the right-angled junction and continue as far as Fortes Velhas, a small isolated village on a hill. Turn left and then right until you cross the road. Continue straight on along a dirt track through huge fields of cereal crops passing small woods of eucalyptus trees, and pass by the Albufeira do Sequeiro reservoir. Turn right and continue between cork oaks and then through wide fields of cereal crops. When you reach the agricultural warehouse, turn right and continue as far as the settlement of Aldeia Velha de Canhestros and turn left. Continue until you reach the EN383 main road, turn right and continue as far as the roundabout and go into Canhestros as far as the garden.



SIGNAGE



FCMP - Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal

EMERGENCY

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Fire Alert 117
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