



Vila Nova da Baronia

The oldest written references to the village that belonged to the Alvito estate date back to the thirteenth century. Called "Vila Nova" and having been associated with several names, it has had its current designation since the eighteenth century, due to its integration in the lands of the Barony of Alvito. It was the county seat until 1836, with a royal charter and pillory in the centre of the village, and the local people were far from happy about its integration into Alvito. The considerable care that has been taken in terms of religious and civil architecture, in a typically rural society, is clearly evident.



Rurality and ancestry

The population settlement was based on a distribution of agricultural land in fractions of land. In Portuguese, the toponym "Sesmarias", which exists in the vicinity of the urban space, refers precisely to this process. The use of the land for agricultural purposes is clear to see: there are fields sown with crops, grazing land and groves of cork oak and olive trees. Other typical signs of the rural world are still visible in the countryside and in the town, such as wells, norias, springs and drinking fountains.



Mediaeval bridge of Azinhal

An imposing work of early sixteenth-century engineering, the bridge was hugely important as a means of crossing the Vila Nova da Baronia Stream, on the road to the west of the village, for hundreds of years. Built in stone and lime, it has three round arches of different sizes and strong retaining walls. The local people commonly refer to it as the "Roman Bridge", although this is incorrect since it was not built in Roman times. Its robustness is admirable, it is perfectly safe for pedestrian and an excellent spot for photography lovers.



Chapel of Sant'Águeda

Located three kilometres from Vila Nova da Baronia is the chapel dedicated to Saint Neutel and Saint Águeda. Built in the early sixteenth century, it is lavishly decorated inside with fresco mural paintings depicting numerous saints, musical angels, biblical scenes, mermaids, flowers, fruits and other geometric motifs. A particular highlight is the meticulously designed and coloured seventeenth-century tile panel depicting grape branches and birds.

Covering an area of 264.85 km² and with a population of around 2,300 inhabitants, the municipality of Alvito is located in the Baixo Alentejo (Lower Alentejo) region, halfway between the Atlantic coast and Spain. It comprises two civil parishes: Alvito and Vila Nova da Baronia and is a rural territory, where pastures, cork oak forests and olive groves predominate. The urban centres feature heritage that holds great historical importance in terms of civil and religious architecture. This is particularly true of the numerous examples of the Manueline style and the fresco paintings in various churches and chapels.



PR - SHORT ROUTES

VILA NOVA DA BARONIA
 1 PR1 Route of Santa Águeda

ALVITO
 2 PR2 Memories of the Alvito Mills



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.



ALVITO
MUNICÍPIO

Alvito Municipality
Tel (+351) 284 480 808
national fixed telephone network
turismo@cm-alvito.pt



KML GPX



ROUTE OF SANT'ÁGUEDA



Walking Trails of

ALVITO . ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL



PR 1
AVT

ROUTE OF SANT'ÁGUEDA

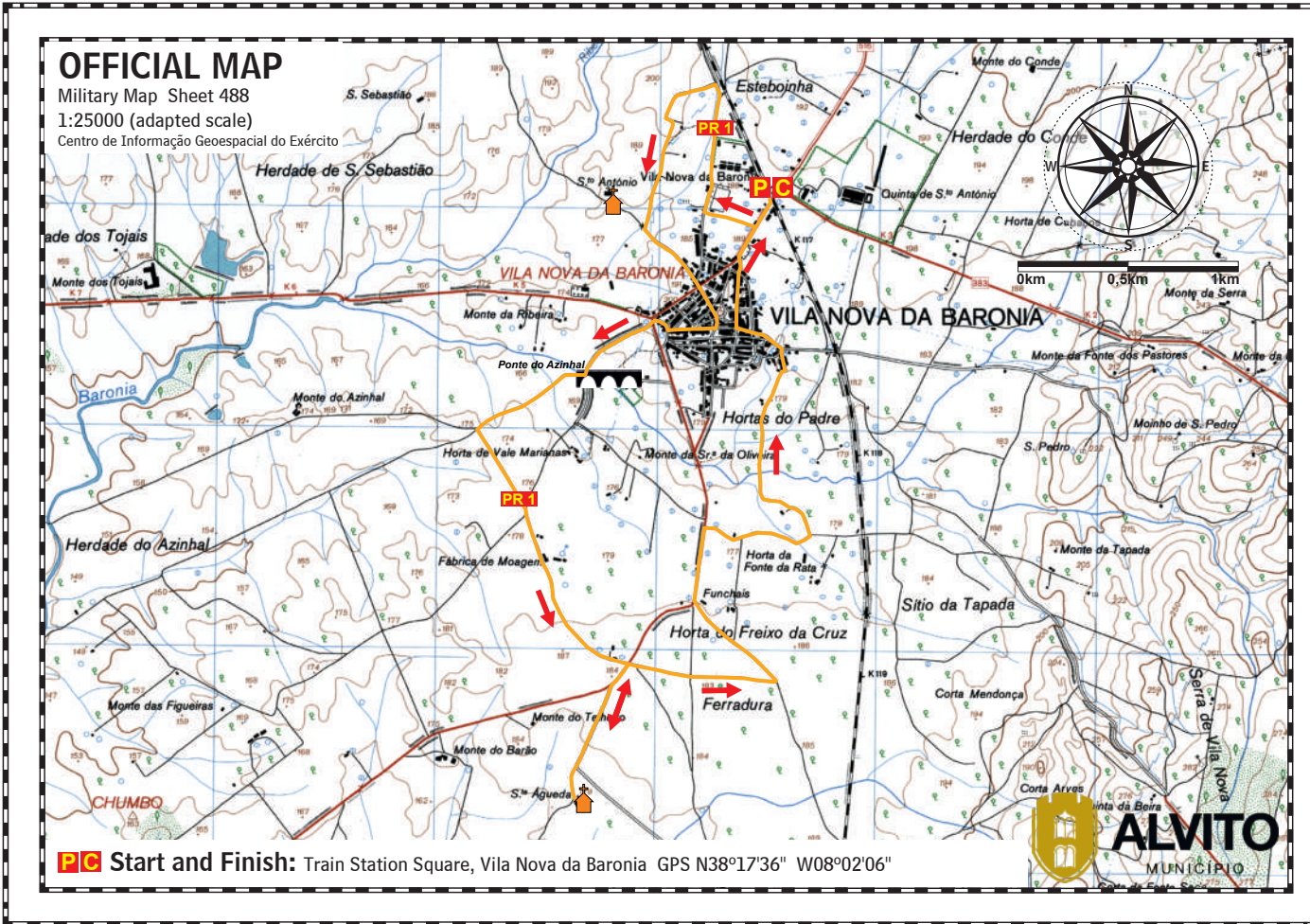


Walking Trails of

ALVITO . ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL

10.3km
Loop
3 hours
●●○○○

Vila Nova da Baronia and the surrounding fields form landscapes of great beauty, with nicely aligned urban spaces, their architecture typical of the Baixo Alentejo (Lower Alentejo), and rural spaces divided into small properties. In addition to the Chapel of Santa Águeda, other surprises along the way include the well-preserved Azinhal Bridge, the springs and drinking fountains and the ancestral paths between cork oaks, holm oaks and olive trees, which make up the usual ambience of this territory.



DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAIL

From the train station, follow Avenida 1º de Maio, turn right and go through the Horta da Cavalinha garden, next to the Cultural Centre. Then turn right and follow a rural path through different types of landscape, from which you can see the Chapel of Santo António. Entering Vila Nova da Baronia again, pass the imposing Main Church (Igreja Matriz) of Our Lady of the Assumption. Leave the village along Rua 25 de Abril, cross the "crossing of the scale", next to the large drinking fountain and head towards the Azinhal Bridge, making a small detour to visit Poço Marçal (Marçal Well), another ancient testimony to the rural environment. After the bridge, continue by way of Monte da Canada Real and the Horta da Fábrica (flour mill). When you reach the asphalt road, an out-and-back detour will take you to the Chapel of Sant' Águeda. Returning to the route, follow the dirt road for a bit until it turns left through small farms in order to pass through Horta da Valada. This is followed by a short section along the side of road, so please be very careful here. Turn right and then follow the shady rural paths beneath the massive trees. Cross a small stream known as "barranco salta-moças", which will bring you into the town through the square of Fontenário da Bica Nova. Once inside the urban space, go through Praça da República, next to the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception), and follow Rua 5 de Outubro to the starting point. Here, you can admire many well-kept houses and a small processional altar with interesting symbols in relief.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

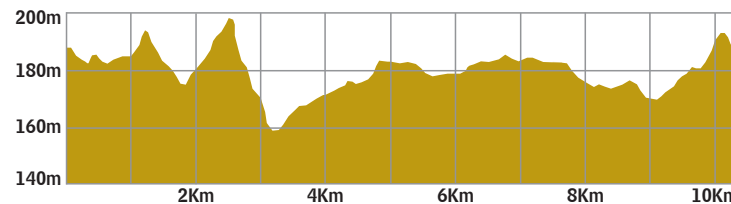
Path: Loop
Distance: 10.3km
Duration: 3 hours
Accumulated elev.: 144m
Difficulty: Medium(-)
Surface: Country paths
Season: All year

POINTS OF INTEREST

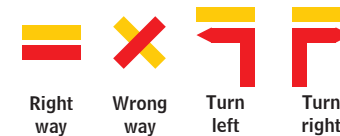
Vila Nova da Baronia
Chapel of Santo António
Marçal well
Mediaeval bridge of Azinhal
Chapel of Sant'Águeda
Ancestral paths
Rural landscape

ELEVATION PROFILE

Check the relationship between distance and altitude scales.



SIGNAGE



EMERGENCY

Emergency phone 112
Fire alert phone 117
Environment +351 808 200 520
National police sepna@gnr.pt
To call for help, inform the blue triangle number of the nearest directional sign.

FCMP - Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal