



Castle and Town of Alvito

Located in the town centre, the fortress was built in the late fifteenth century by Dom João II and has always served as the residence of the lords of Alvito. It has an austere and robust bearing, with elegant features in the "Manueline Style". Owned by Casa de Bragança, it has been operating as a Pousada since the 1990s. The town of Alvito offers a wide range of interesting heritage, such as the Igreja Matriz (Main Church) and the Misericórdia Church (Church of Mercy), the Town Hall with its clock tower and an extraordinary set of "Manueline Doors" located throughout the town.



Windmills

Now abandoned or converted for residential use, these mills belong to the last generation of cereal mills, built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Historically, the use of wind as a driving force for milling is attributed to the Persians, who arrived in Europe as part of the Islamic settlement of the Iberian Peninsula and later spread throughout the continent. Situated on hilltops, these major symbols of human capacity to make the best use of agriculture and wind energy also have a special charm.



Chapel of São Pedro/St Peter

Dedicated to St Peter, the chapel is located on an isolated hilltop, earning it the designation of "hermitage". Built in the early sixteenth century, it features mural paintings alluding to the apostle, referenced in the seventeenth century, and works to enlarge the porch date the eighteenth century. Given its morphology and location, the construction on this site may have been intended to Christianise the site of an ancient "Islamic qubba". From here, you can admire expansive views over the surrounding landscapes.



Cork oak forest

The cork oak forest is a man-made ecosystem, characteristic of the Alentejo. These are very delicately -balanced forests of cork oaks and holm oaks that are now only found in the south of the Iberian Peninsula and North Africa. Cork oaks are robust trees whose bark (cork) is extremely important from a commercial point of view. Cork is harvested from each tree with great care and only once every nine years. It is one of Portugal's most valuable products and is of particular importance in the Alentejo.

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.

PR 2
AVT

MEMORIES OF THE
ALVITO MILLS



Walking Trails of

ALVITO . ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL



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KML GPX



PR 2
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MEMORIES OF THE ALVITO MILLS

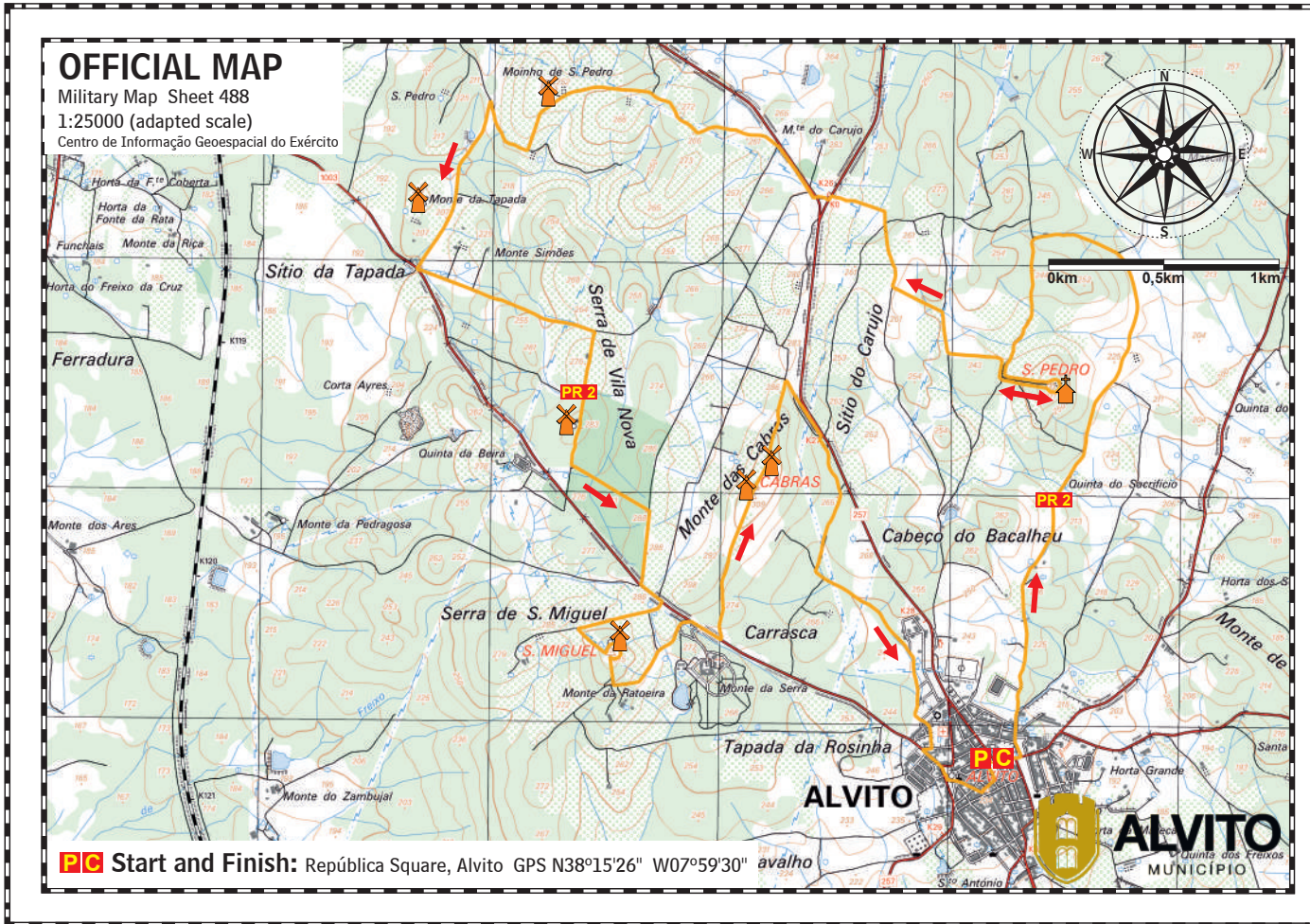


Walking Trails of

ALVITO . ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL

15.4km
Loop
5 hours
●●●●●

Geographically speaking, when you arrive in Alvito you will be in the heart of the Alentejo, as it is equidistant from almost the entire territory. But it is also the heart in the emotional sense, since there is so much evidence of its historical heritage in addition to the productive rural farming. The many windmills that serve as the theme for this route bear witness to bygone days of cereal farming.



DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAIL

Set off from Alvito Castle, located in the Praça da República, the very heart of the town, and go past the monumental Largo do Roque Fountain. Now head north along Rua do Matadouro, leaving the urban space behind almost immediately. Next, follow a dirt road, from where you can see a variety of rural and forest spaces. The centuries-old olive groves alternate with patches of cork oak forest and extensive pastures, where cattle can often be seen grazing at will. After the path turns southwards, you can take a detour to the ruins of the sixteenth-century Chapel of São Pedro (St Peter). The fabulous wall paintings date from the following century. Head back the same way and continue along the rural path between cork oaks, until you reach a junction on the N257 national road. Please take great care when crossing here. Stay alongside the N383 national road for about 300 metres and then turn left onto another rural path that will bring you to the São Pedro mill. Start the descent through Monte da Tapada until you reach the municipal road, which you leave immediately, turning left, to start the ascent to the Serra de Vila Nova on the right. Go half-way through the eucalyptus grove and then turn to your left. Then go down in a southerly direction until you reach the municipal road. Turn left and cross the road to go up to the Serra de São Miguel, where you can enjoy a splendid view of Alvito and Vila Nova da Baronia. Then go down a small trail next to the fence until you get close to Monte da Ratoeira and keep going until you come to the road a little farther on that will bring you to Monte das Cabras with its watchful windmills. From the top, continue to the N257 national road and follow the historic rural trail to the right of it, through the centuries-old olive trees. On arrival in the town of Alvito, wend your way past its most important monuments.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

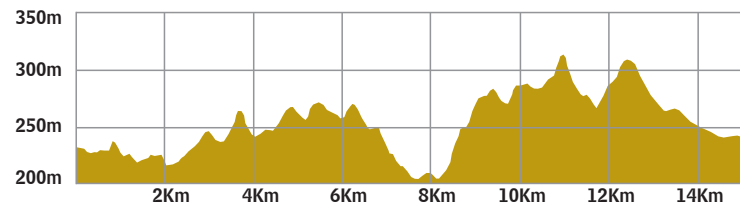
Path: Loop
Distance: 15.4km
Duration: 5 hours
Accumulated elev.: 393m
Difficulty: Medium(+)
Surface: Country paths
Season: All year

POINTS OF INTEREST

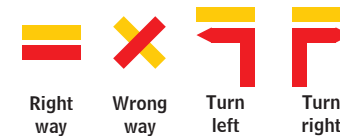
Castle and Village of Alvito
Chapel of São Pedro
Cork oak forest
Windmills
Traditional olive fields

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.