



Photo: Dimis Cortes

Blue rock thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)

> Highlights

NATURE: pallid swift (*Apus pallidus*), common redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*), golden oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*), blue rock thrush (*Monticola solitarius*), lesser spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) and booted eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*). Special mention, as well, for the two amphibians exclusive to the Iberian Peninsula: the Bosca's newt (*Lissotriton boscai*) and the Iberian frog (*Rana iberica*).

HERITAGE: Castle of Castelo de Vide; Fort of S. Roque; Parish Church of Santa Maria da Devesa; Jewish quarter; Synagogue.

HANDICRAFT: embroideries; *talegos* (bags embroidered with linen); art of working wrought iron, wood, cork and horn (miniatures); tiles; weaving.

GASTRONOMY: *sarapatel*; *cachafrito*; *molinhos* in tomato sauce; *alhada* of dogfish; liver, Castelo de Vide style; *pezinhos* of coriander; sausages. Sweets (*boleima*, *broas* of honey, *enxovalhada* – an Easter tradition –, cottage cheese cheesecake).

> Recommended season

This walking path can be done throughout the year. Nevertheless, users must be aware of high temperatures during summer time and some slippery points during winter and rainy days.

> Trail signage

®FCMP

right way



wrong way



turn left



turn right



coincident path
GR with PR



> Place of Interest

CHAPEL OF N. SR.^a DA PENHA

Built in 1570, in the golden age of the Portuguese Renaissance, the Chapel of N. Sr.^a da Penha was designed with a trapezoidal nave joined to a rectangular sacristy and a circular main chapel lined with 17th-century ceramic tiles in a blue-white-and-yellow pattern. Under the dome there is a typical Baroque-style altar. Sitting alone at the top of the Serra de São Paulo, at 710 m elevation, it offers a marvellous view over the surrounding countryside to those who succeed in climbing its steep stairway. From here one can see Castelo de Vide and its fields, the monumental quartzite ridge on which Marvão sits, to the east, the Sever River marking the border and to the north, the horizon formed by the mountain ranges of Açor, Gardunha and Estrela.

> Walking code

Follow sign-posted trails only. / Respect private property. / Avoid making unnecessary noise. / Do not disturb the animals. / Do not collect or damage plants or rocks. / Do not litter and leave no trace of your visit. / Do not light fire and do not throw cigarettes on the ground. / Be kind to local people. / Beware of cattle. Although gentle, they do not like strangers approaching their young. / Leave the gates as you found them. If they are closed, be sure they remain well shut.

> Useful contacts

Town Hall of Castelo de Vide: +351 245 908 220

Municipal Tourist Office: +351 245 908 227

SOS Emergency: 112

SOS Forest: 117

Medical Center: +351 245 900 160

Anti-Poisoning Information: +351 217 950 143

GNR (Republican National Guard): +351 245 901 314

Fire Department: +351 245 901 444

Village Hall of São João Baptista: +351 245 900 060

Village Hall of Santa Maria da Devesa: +351 245 900 060

Village Hall of São Tiago Maior: +351 245 900 060

Promotor:



Walking path registered
and approved by:



Partner institution:



Co-financing:



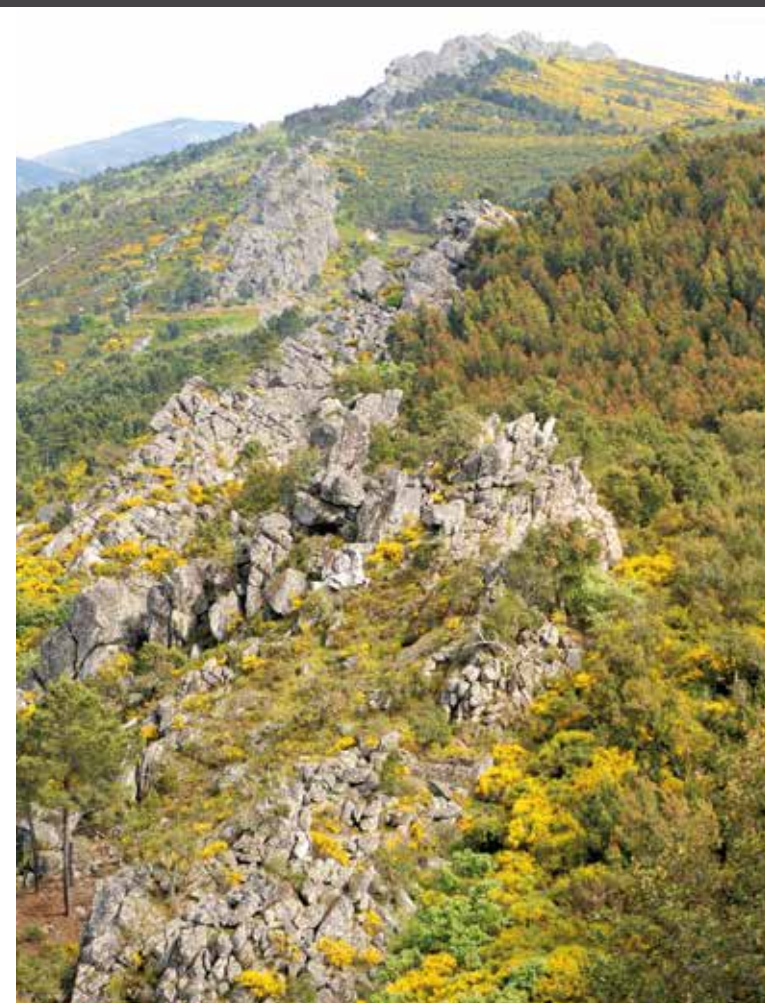
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WALKING PATH THROUGH SERRA DE SÃO PAULO



PATH NETWORK IN NATURE



> Walking path description



Chapel of N. Sr.ª da Penha. On the top of the rocky outcrop, a place of worship, a viewpoint over Alto Alentejo.

The path begins at Castelo de Vide near the Church of N. Sr.ª dos Remédios, following a gently descending pathway until it crosses the water courses that will form the São João River. Leaving the urban area we stay on the path, climbing up the northeastern slope of the Serra de São Paulo. At a certain point we notice the misalignment of the quartzite outcropping, evidence of a geological fracture with an oblique slip. The range of views over the village increases step by step. The Santa Fountain is a perfect place to rest and enjoy the landscape. From here the path will follow a very well preserved section of a medieval stone-paved roadway which leads us to the culmination of the journey: the Chapel of N. Sr.ª da Penha. The location gives us a view of the landscape that, from west to east, stretches to the distant horizons. Here, the more adventurous ones can enjoy a *via ferrata* (an itinerary laid out along the rock walls of a mountain). We resume the path downhill by the municipal road, but soon we will move onto an old medieval stone-paved roadway that will lead us to the *Alminha* of S. Paulo. In a gentle descent we reach the Nova Fountain, next to the EN246 road. Carefully, we across this road and we continue until we come to the São João River, which is no longer the trickle of water that we saw at the beginning of our walk. Here we begin the last climb that will bring us back to the centre of Castelo de Vide.



type of path

9.2 Km

distance

3.30^H

time

uphill
235 m

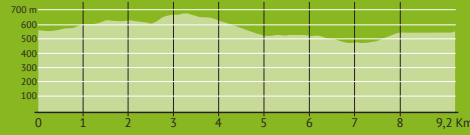
altitude variation

II
easy

grading

691^m
481^m

altitude max/min



gradient profile



The difficulty level is determined according to 4 different factors, each of which is assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 (from easiest to most difficult)

difficulty level



Geological fracture of Castelo de Vide



Fountain of Sr.ª da Penha



Caption

- Walking path
- Asphalt road
- Watercourse
- Path intersection
- Downhill track
- Via ferrata

Starting/Ending: close to the Chapel of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios (GPS: 39°24'38, 25"N; 7°27'00, 77"W)

Recommended direction of the walking path: clockwise

Walking path reception centre - GPS: 39°24'59, 39" N; 07°27'18, 75" W

- Accommodation
- Restaurant
- ATM
- Landscape
- Pharmacy
- Market
- Tourist office
- Information on site

> Places of Interest:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 Regalo Fountain | 9 <i>Via ferrata</i> |
| 2 Fitness Circuit | 10 Medieval stone-paved roadway |
| 3 Geological fracture of Castelo de Vide | 11 <i>Alminha</i> of São Paulo |
| 4 Medieval stone-paved roadway | 12 Nova Fountain |
| 5 Santa Fountain | 13 Church of Senhor do Bonfim |
| 6 Medieval stone-paved roadway | 14 Cortiço Fountain |
| 7 Downhill trail | 15 <i>Alminha</i> of Santo André |
| 8 Chapel of N. Sr.ª da Penha | |



Serra de São Mamede Nature Park

The Serra de São Mamede, which gives name to this Nature Park, is the largest mountainous formation south of the Tagus River. Due to its geographical location and the fact that it rises above 1000m, it has distinctive microclimate aspects that have allowed the establishment and survival of some animal and vegetal communities that occur here in an almost isolated manner. The Bonelli's eagle is represented in the symbol of this Protected Area. It is currently one of the rarest birds of prey found in our country.

