



Sever River

PR8 NIS WALKING PATHS OF MOINHO BRANCO



Highlights

NATURE: the spring, when everything is in flower, and the autumn are the recommended seasons to undertake the route. In the surrounding hills, of the old wheat fields, where cows and sheep once grazed, only the holm and cork oaks remain, to which was added a dense eucalyptus forest. At the mouth of the Sever River barbel, carp and black bass abound, which can be fished in the deeper parts of the river, along its course. The margins are filled with ash trees, poplars and reeds, while along the dirt roads the rockrose, the broom, the strawberry tree, the myrtle and the wild olive are common.

HERITAGE: Montalvão: Castle (probably from the reign of D. Dinis); Parish Church (13th – 14th centuries); Church of Misericórdia; Chapel of S. Pedro; Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

HANDICRAFT: stoned pottery; embroidery and stitched from Nisa; bobbin lace; tatting; felt appliqués and pulled thread hems.

GASTRONOMY: *cachola* rice from Alpalhão; *febras da matança*; *sarapatel* soup; *afogado* soup; potato crumbs; *papa ratos*; *maranhos*; *pezinhos* with tomato sauce; *feijões das festas*; lamprey rice; river fish soup. Sweets (*cavacas*, *dormidos cakes*, *esquecidos*, *nisas*, *barquinhos*). *Mestiço* cheese from Tolosa (Protected Geographical Indication); Nisa cheese (Protected Origin Designation); sausages from Alpalhão.

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



Place of Interest

FOUNTAIN OF PALES

Located in Tapada da Queijeira, near the Lapão River, this fountain with drinking spouts can be reached from the road that leads us to the steep slopes of the Sever River, crossing the Alto da Pobreza through trails once trodden by peasants and smugglers. The Fountain of Pales is located on the outskirts of Montalvão, in uninhabited mountains, and which in other times were filled with cereal crops. Today, there remain only the holm and cork oaks, and a marvellous view over the banks of Sever.

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 Nisa: +351 - 245 410 000
- Nisa Tourist Office: +351 - 245 410 000 - extension 353
- SOS Emergency: 112
- SOS Forest: 117
- Medical Center: +351 - 245 410 160
- Anti-Poisoning Information: +351 - 217 950 143
- GNR (Republican National Guard): +351 - 245 410 116
- Fire Department: +351 - 245 412 303
- Village Hall of Montalvão: +351 - 245 743 132

Promotor:



Walking path registered and approved by:



Partner institution:



Co-financing:



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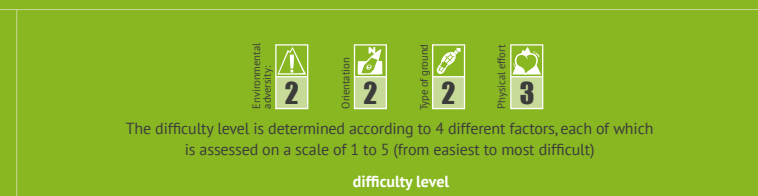
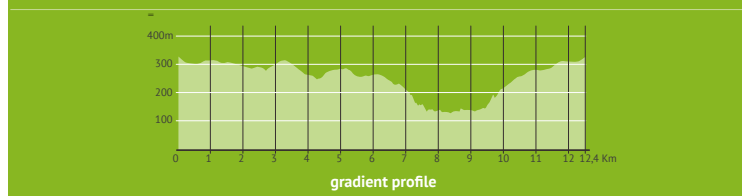
PATH NETWORK IN NATURE

> Walking path description



Watermill of Moinho Branco. On the banks of the Sever River, an ideal place to eat lunch and rest.

The walking path begins in Montalvão, a rural village situated high on a hill from which you can see the landscapes of Alentejo, Beira and Spain. We suggest a visit to the old town, castle, parish church and the community oven. The path follows the road of Montalvão - Póvoa, leaving the village and turning on the first pathway on the left to the steep slopes of the Sever River. Travelling paths once used by farmers and smugglers, you pass by the Fountain of Pales, the Tapada da Queijeira and at the Alto da Pobreza there is a good lookout point over the mouth of the Ribeira de São João. You then come to the mill of Moinho Branco, an area of steep slopes carved by watercourses, ideal for sport fishing. Follow the bank of the Sever River, with Spain always the other side, in an area of dense vegetation where fountains and springs abound, with some traditional buildings and shelters in schist, now used by fishermen. Below, the path leaves the river, reaching the pontoon of Ribeiro do Lapão, built in schist over a polished stone bed. Located close by, surrounded by olive trees in terraces, is the *Abrigo do Pescador* (fisherman's shelter). On the way back to Montalvão, the climb follows footpaths that pass by the threshing-floor of Ferreira.



- ### > Places of Interest
- 1 Fountain of Pales
 - 2 Monte do Estacal
 - 3 Monte da Pobreza
 - 4 Mouth of São João River / Sever River
 - 5 Moinho Branco (watermill and fountain)
 - 6 Resting area
 - 7 Pontoon of Ribeira de Lapão
 - 8 Shelter in schist
 - 9 Viewpoint
 - 10 Resting area
 - 11 Chapel of Santa Margarida (ruins)

NATURA 2000 São Mamede Special Area of Conservation

There are 116.114ha of great diversity of habitats, some of them priorities. The geomorphology and microclimate favour the southern limit of distribution for many species and plant communities of more Atlantic preferences, as occurs on the northern and western slopes, where the presence of the Pyrenean oak (*Quercus pyrenaica*) stands out. The regions facing the east, further south, have more Mediterranean influence and hence are the domain of the cork oak and holm oak. This Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has important watercourses related to the conservation of the *saramugo* (*Anaocypris hispanica*) and the rare and threatened river-mussel (*Unio crassus*). Here also is the most important cave in the country and one of the most important in Europe that serves as a shelter for breeding and hibernation of colonies of several species of bats.

Caption

- Walking path
- Asphalt road
- Watercourse
- Recommended direction of the walking path: clockwise
- Starting/Ending: next to the Parish Church of Montalvão (GPS: 39°35'44,15"N; 7°31'38,10"W)
- Restaurant
- ATM
- Pharmacy
- Market
- Landscape