

Dolmen of Pombais

> Highlights

NATURE: path that is highly significant for its flora in the areas of Pyrenean oak forests, where the Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum odoratum*) stands out.

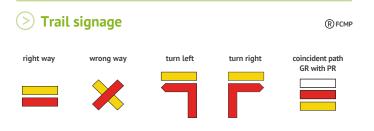
HERITAGE: Castle of Castelo de Vide; Fort of S. Roque; Parish Church of Santa Maria da Devesa; Jewish quarter; Synagogue.

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

GASTRONOMY: *sarapatel; cachafrito; molhinhos* 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.



> Place of Interest

DOLMEN OF POMBAIS

Megalithic monument, the dating of which places it in the transition from the Neolithic to the Chalcolithic (Copper Age), was built with granite slabs that form an irregular polygonal chamber with a delineated rectangular entrance, facing north. Originally composed of seven pillars, the Dolmen of Pombais has only five today, gently sloping into the chamber and sustaining the covering slab. Intervention works in the recent past greatly deformed the morphology and structure of this ancient tomb, which in the last century served as storage for agricultural materials as well as a shelter for shepherds and cattle. It has been a National Monument since 1910.

> 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

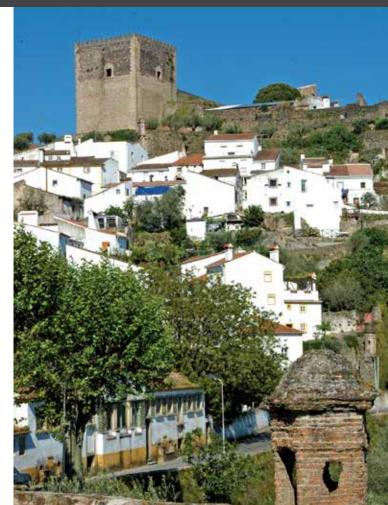


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CVD WALKING PATH OF TORRINHA



PATH NETWORK IN NATURE



> Walking path description



Paths with stone walls surrounded by oak trees. The stones removed from the farmlands served to sustain the land and mark the property lines.

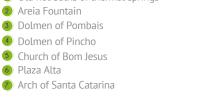
From the point of departure and arrival, next to the building of the old thermal springs of Castelo de Vide, one can see almost all the granite area where the pathway leads. From here, we foresee a big descent and a big climb. The downward section follows paths and roads flanked by stacked stone walls, beyond which the lands are densely wooded. We will cross the Cáceres Branch of the Eastern Railway Line for the first of four times, after which we can choose an alternative path that will take us towards the Dolmen of Pombais. Before we cross the line for the third time we will have to our side the Dolmen of Pincho. We will then take a little-used municipal road, which we will soon abandon in order to walk along ancient footpaths flanked by stone walls. We come out at the Church of Bom Jesus, the start of the northeast slope of the hill where the village of Castelo de Vide is set. We reach the by-pass highway, but soon afterwards, a steeper section of the path appears to us as the ultimate challenge for a final attack to conquer the Plaza Alta.



Castelo de Vide - panoramic view



Places of Interest: Old hot baths of thermal springs



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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 prev found in our country.

NATURAL