



Fort of Santa Luzia, Elvas

## > Place of Interest

### FORT OF SANTA LUZIA AND FORT OF S. MAMEDE

Military construction of beauty and grandeur unparalleled in Portugal, the Fort of Santa Luzia is an essential milestone of military architecture. The Restoration War between Portugal and Spain was the major factor in the building of this structure which began in 1641 under the lines of Martim Afonso de Melo. The following year, King D. João IV brought together in Elvas some of the most recognized military architects of the time, leaving to Cosmader and Gillot the final lines of the fort, completed in 1648. At the beginning of the 19th century, with the country's sovereignty in question due to the Napoleonic Invasions, the Marquês de Alorna ordered the construction of fortalices on several hills surrounding the city, thus strengthening its defensive lines. The Fort of S. Mamede dates from this time.

PR1  
ELV

## WALKING PATH OF TORRE DA BOLSA



PATH NETWORK IN NATURE

## > Highlights

**NATURE:** nesting birds: great bustard (*Otis tarda*) and little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*). Migratory period: lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*). Wintering: black-winged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*). Other bird species of interest for conservation: red kite (*Milvus milvus*), Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*), calandra lark (*Melanocorypha calendra*) and European roller (*Coracias garrulus*).

**HERITAGE:** Elvas - World Heritage.

**HANDICRAFT:** traditional embroidery; pottery and painting on clay; *roncas* (musical instrument); traditional garments (*samarra* and Alentejo overcoat).

**GASTRONOMY:** plums from Elvas (Protected Designation of Origin); golden cod; olive from Elvas; *presinhas* from the bowl; *sericaia*.

## > Recommended season

Preferably during the spring, due to the ease of observing a large number of bird species. In summer we recommend the early morning or late afternoon, due to high temperatures and lack of shade along the walking path.

## > Trail signage

® FCMP

right way



wrong way



turn left



turn right



## > 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 Elvas: +351 268 639 740  
Municipal Tourist Office: +351 268 622 236  
SOS Emergency: 112  
SOS Forest: 117  
Medical Center: +351 268 637 170  
Hospital: +351 268 637 200  
Anti-Poisoning Information: +351 217 950 143  
GNR (Republican National Guard): +351 268 637 730  
PSP (Public Security Police): +351 268 639 470  
Fire Department: +351 268 636 320  
Village Hall of Assunção, Ajuda, Salvador and Santo Ildefonso: +351 268 639 560  
Village Hall of Caia, São Pedro and Alcáçova: +351 268 639 740

Promotor:



Walking path registered and approved by:



Partner institution:



Co-financing:



## > Walking path description



**Little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*).** The Torre da Bolsa Special Protected Area, with its grain fields and pastures, is one of the best places in the country to observe this steppe bird.

This path is specially designed for birdwatchers, given the extraordinary richness of avifauna in this area. The pathway consists of two distinct sections. From the vicinity of the Fort of Santa Luzia through the end of the descent where we come upon another municipal road, the surroundings are characterized by a dryland farming area with cereal crops and pastures under the cover of an open holm oak forest and some traditional olive grove. It is the preferred area for steppe species and the one that crosses the Torre da Bolsa Special Protected Area. The observatory allows more favorable viewing angles on the fields, where we can observe the little bustard, the Montagu's harrier and the kestrel. Already in the flatter area - included in the Caia Special Area of Conservation - a parallel track to Caia River, the irrigated cereal crops dominate, together with increasingly larger areas of intensive olive groves. Here we can find the calandra lark. As we passed by the Dam of Alfarófia Nova we can highlight the presence of the western swamphen, the flufftail and the collared pratincole. In the adjacent agricultural lands is usual the presence of the white stork and the cattle egret. Here the walking path is developed through a section on dirt roads, finishing along the right bank of the Caia River.

A → B  
linear

type of path

14.3<sup>Km</sup>

distance

5.15<sup>H</sup>

time

uphill  
33<sup>m</sup>

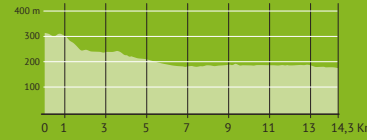
altitude variation

III  
moderate

grading

310<sup>m</sup>  
163<sup>m</sup>

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)

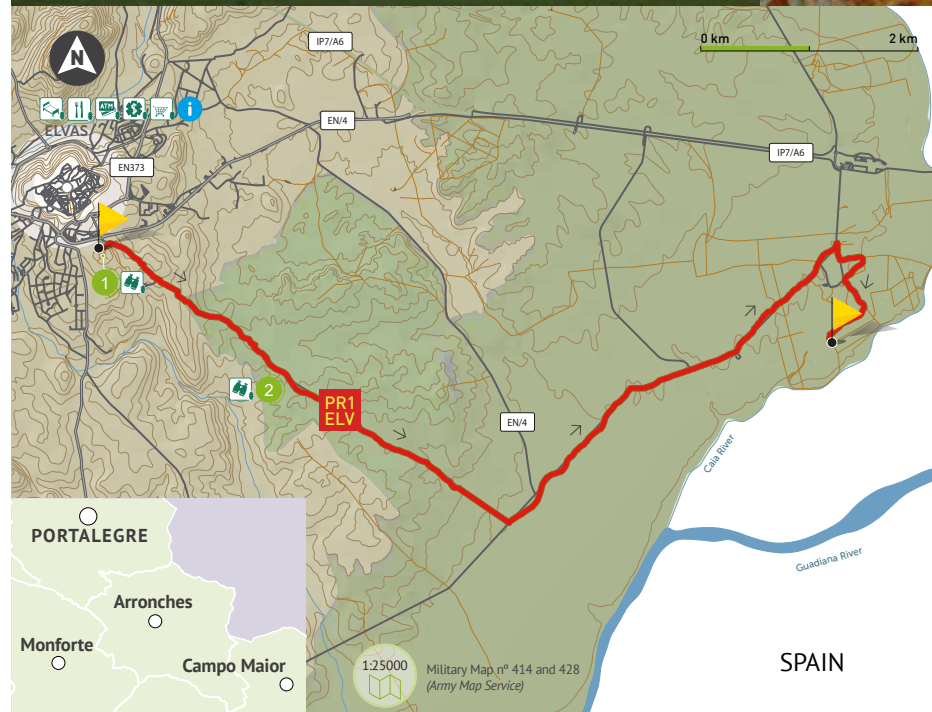
difficulty level



Traditional olive grove



Plums from Elvas (Protected Designation of Origin)



## > Places of Interest

- 1 Fort of Santa Luzia and Fort of S. Mamede
- 2 Observatory for birdwatching

## Torre da Bolsa Special Protection Area

With 869 ha, this Special Protection Area (SPA) covers an agricultural area, mainly used for growing cereal crops and pastures, with some small traditional olive groves and new olive groves of an intensive regime. The SPA was established in order to promote the conservation of steppe birds and some birds of prey. The name is derived from the existence of a tower of medieval characteristics which is close to the northern limit of this SPA.

### Caption

- Walking path
- Asphalt road
- Watercourses
- Recommended direction of the walking path: West - East

**Starting:** near the parking place of the Fort of Santa Luzia (GPS: 38°52'24, 78°N; 7°9'31, 07°W)  
**Ending:** close to Caia River and the frontier, Caia (GPS: 38°51'46, 09°N; 7°3'12, 29°W)

- Accommodation
- Restaurant
- ATM
- Landscape
- Pharmacy
- Market
- Tourist office