



Tagus River

### > Place of Interest

#### CONHAL DO ARNEIRO

In a valley on the left bank of the Tagus, downstream from *Portas de Ródão*, is the *Conhal do Arneiro*, a large heap formed by gigantic piles of pebbles, a witness to the gold mining that took place in Roman and medieval times. The precious metal was washed with water from the Nisa River, taken from the area of Senhora da Graça. Proving the quality of the Alentejo ore, D. João III ordered the manufacture of a sceptre in gold extracted from this river, and Vasco da Gama a cross, showing to the Venetians that in Portugal there were more precious metals than in the Eastern world. Iron, steel and silver are other metals once exploited on the banks of the Tagus.



## WALKING PATHS OF CONHAL



PATH NETWORK IN NATURE

### > Highlights

**NATURE:** this area is covered by cork oak, holm oak, olive, maritime pine and eucalyptus. Near the ground appear the rockrose, broom, lavender, juniper, the strawberry tree, heather and rosemary. You may observe the jay, the robin, the thrush, the goldfinch, the blackbird, the partridge and the quail, or larger birds such as the grey heron, the ciconia, the kite, the osprey, the vulture, the eagle owl, the cormorant and the griffon vulture. The banks of Tagus abound with reeds, white and common willows, poplar and ash, and you may fish for barbel, boce, carp, black bass, eel, dace, allis shad and perch.

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

**GASTRONOMY:** *cachola* rice from Alpalhão; *febras da mataça*; *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



### > 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 Santana: +351 - 245 469 130

Promotor:



Walking path registered and approved by:



Partner institution:



Co-financing:



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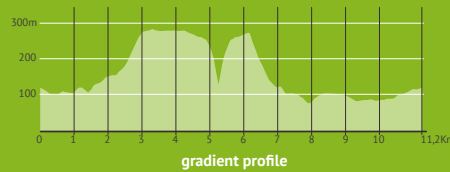


## > Walking path description



**Conchal do Arneiro.** Large mine waste tip of rolled pebbles that testify to the gold mining that took place here.

The walking path begins at Arneiro, along a dirt track, heading towards the Serra de São Miguel. With the *Portas de Ródão* on the horizon, the olive grove is gradually replaced by holm oaks, fields covered with gravel and quartzite walls. Entering the mountains with their dense vegetation, meander through terraces hiding old olive trees. At the top, now among pine trees, pass next to *Buraco da Faiopa* (Faiopa's Hole). The path carries on towards the castle of Ródão from which the traveler may contemplate the silent flight of protected birds such as the griffon vulture. In the distance lie the Tagus River, the mouth of the Ribeira do Vale, Conchal and Vila Velha de Ródão. Visit the viewpoint over the *Portas de Ródão*, with privileged views of the bridge of the Tagus River and Vila Velha de Ródão and over the *Conchal*, Pego das Portas and the Fountain of Virtues. The pathway goes down the rock, next to the hill full of junipers and strawberry trees and progressing towards *Conchal*. Take a moment to climb one of the giant piles of pebbles that compose it. Before reaching the *Conchal* we can visit the Wharf of Pego das Portas, on the bank of the Tagus. After passing by the small vegetable gardens, with their wells, norias, schist walls and Moorish tile houses, the path reaches the fountain of Ribeiro do Vale. Back at Arneiro, visitors can see the community ovens where bread was baked and appreciate the houses, unique in their painted trim, chimneys and tiny shutters allowing the passage of light.



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



### Caption

- Walking path
- Asphalt road
- Watercourse
- - - Beira Baixa railway line
- Landscape
- Starting/Ending:** next to the Village Hall of Arneiro (GPS: 39°36'57,54N; 7°42'08,00"W)
- Recommended direction of the walking path:** clockwise

## > Places of Interest

- 1 Resting area
- 2 Faiopa's hole
- 3 Viewpoint / resting area
- 4 Viewpoint *Conchal* / Vila Velha de Ródão
- 5 *Portas de Ródão*
- 6 Fluvial wharf of Pego das Portas
- 7 *Conchal*
- 8 Resting area
- 9 Traditional vegetable gardens
- 10 Resting area (fountain)
- 11 Community oven

## **Portas de Ródão Natural Monument**

Created in 2009, this Natural Monument covers an area of 965 ha, divided between the municipalities of Nisa and Vila Velha de Ródão. The geological formation designated *Portas de Ródão* is its most striking aspect. In its quartzitic cliffs we can find important species of rupicolous birds nesting (griffon vultures, the black stork and the Bonelli's eagle) and the occurrence of some important plant formations, including of junipers. This Protected Area has an archaeological heritage that bears witness to human presence for thousands of years as well as geological and paleontological aspects identified by 2 geomonuments integrated in the Naturtejo Geopark: the Natural Monument, its main highlight being the *Conchal do Arneiro*, which corresponds to a gold exploitation from Roman times.

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