



Nisa cheese (Protected Designation of Origin)

## > Highlights

**NATURE:** Naturtejo Geopark. Nisa-Lage da Prata SAC\*. São Mamede SAC. Special note for the *montado* areas and the sections that follow the streams of Figueiró and Nisa. Next to the *Portas de Ródão* the aspects of geology and rupicolous birds stand out.

\*Special Area of Conservation

**HERITAGE:** Jewish marks; Nisa: historic borough; Museum of Embroidery and Pottery - Embroidery Centre and Central Core; Museum of Sacred Art.

**HANDICRAFT:** stoned pottery; embroidery and stitched from Nisa; bobbin lace; tatting; felt appliqué 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 Designation of Origin); 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.

## > Trail signage

right way



wrong way



turn left



turn right



coincident path  
GR with PR



® FCMP

## > Place of Interest

### GATE OF THE VILLAGE

Constructed in the 13th century, the gate has a pointed arch and is flanked by two towers, of rectangular cross-section, provided with battlements. Adorsed to one of the towers is the Clock Tower, built at a later time.

Over the keystone, facing the exterior, there are two shields. One of them corresponds to the shield of Portugal, with its five shields (the lateral ones still reposing, indicating a dating previous to the reform of 1485). The other corresponds to the municipal heraldry. Also the Tower of the Parish Church stands out at this door.

## > 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 - ext. 353

Amieira do Tejo Tourist Office: +351 245 457 007

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 Alpalhão: +351 245 742 154

Village Hall Union of Espírito Santo, Nossa Sr.ª da Graça

and São Simão: +351 245 412 219

Village Hall of Santana: +351 245 469 130

Promotor:



Walking path registered  
and approved by:



Partner institution:



Co-financing:



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GR  
40

# PORTUGUESE WAY OF ST. JAMES – NISA SECTION

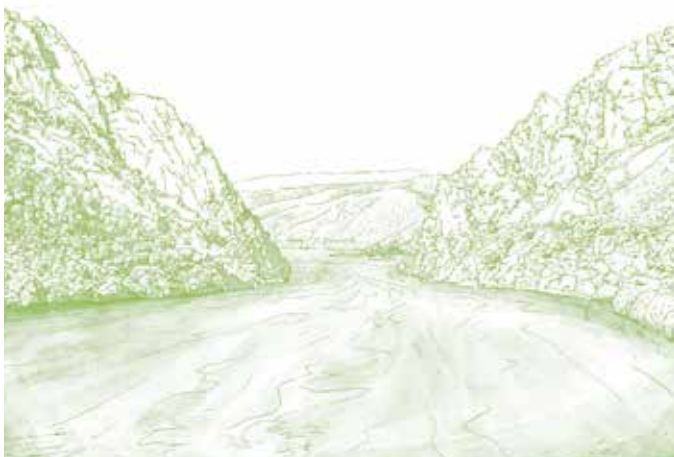


## PATH NETWORK IN NATURE





## > Walking path description



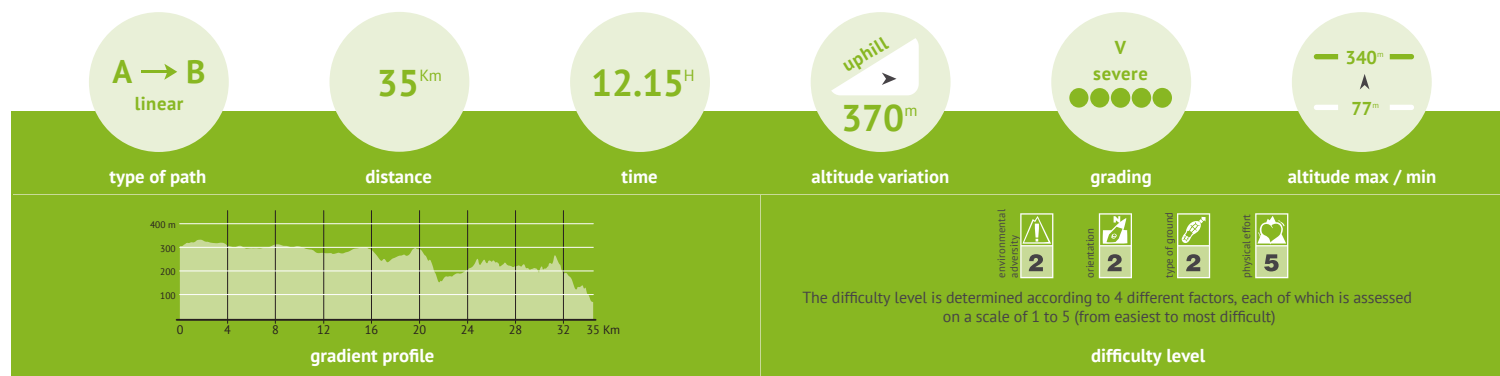
**Portas de Ródão.** The rocky formation that once joined the Alto Alentejo to the Beira Baixa region.

This linear path is a section of the Portuguese Way of St. James through the interior of the country (Tavira - Nisa - Viseu - Chaves). The Nisa section connects the municipality of Crato to Vila Velha de Ródão.

Largely passing through a gentle terrain, it is composed of traditional olive groves and *montado*, where sheep and cattle graze. The path crosses Alpalhão, revealing its patrimonial heritage. Right before Nisa, it goes through an older stone-paved roadway, parallel to the Figueiró River, in a gentle, pleasant stretch. This village impresses by its built heritage: the old gates and the remains of its fortified structure, churches and narrow streets. The path continues for a few more kilometres by road up to the Chapel of São Lourenço, then going through the hills until it descends to the winding valley of Nisa River, which is crossed by means of a footbridge. The terrain is more irregular and the *montado* gives way to eucalyptus and pine trees. The path goes through the eastern slope of the São Miguel ridge.

Now with views to the Tagus River, it crosses the N18 road and goes down through a valley dominated by cistus and pine trees. At the end, we are surprised and amazed by the magnificent landscape of the *Portas de Ródão* and the Tagus River.

The Alto Alentejo ends here. At the other end of the bridge is the Beira Baixa.



Path, next to the Cross



Town Hall of Nisa and Church of Misericórdia



## > Places of Interest

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Stepping stones of Ribeira de Sor | 7 Parish Church of Nisa         |
| 2 Feteira Fountain                  | 8 Gate of Montalvão             |
| 3 Church of Misericórdia            | 9 Chapel of São Lourenço        |
| 4 Chapel of Santo António           | 10 Calvary / Chapel of Santiago |
| 5 Church of Espírito Santo          | 11 Porto das Carretas           |
| 6 Gate of the Village               | 12 Interpretative table         |

## ICNF *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 quartzite cliffs we find the nesting grounds for important species of rupicolous birds (griffon vultures, the black stork and the Bonelli's eagle) and some important plant formations, specifically junipers. This Protected Area also has geological and paleontological aspects that make it a geosite as well as an archaeological heritage that bears witness to human presence for thousands of years. The *Conhal do Arneiro* stands out for being a gold mining site from Roman times.

### Caption

- Walking path
- Asphalt road
- Watercourse
- Path intersection
- Recommended direction of the walking path: South - North

**Starting:** near to the viaduct of IP2/N18 road, south of Alpalhão  
(GPS: 39°24'31, 96°N; 7°36'55, 03°W)  
**Ending:** bridge over the Tagus River on the N18 road  
(GPS: 39°38'45, 87°N; 7°40'33, 47°W)

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

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