



Pontoon

Place of Interest

DAMS AND WATERMILLS

Along the watercourse of Fivelão River we find a series of dams and watermills, dating to medieval, modern and contemporary periods, used in the exploitation of the river waters and rain. The dams are stone walls that retain water, conducting it through a channel to the watermills, in a downward path in order to move the wheels and the millstone that turns the grain into flour. The noria consists of a toothed wheel, disks and buckets, powered by a pack animal, which pumps water to a *levada*, taking it back to the reservoir by the action of gravity, after watering gardens and orchards located upstream.

Highlights

NATURE: next to the estuary of Tagus River, where you can fish for barbel, boce, carp, black bass, eel, dace and perch, various bird species make their home, such as the grey heron, the black stork, the red kite, the osprey, the black vulture, the eagle owl and the griffon vulture. This is the territory of the wild boar, the red deer, the fox, the genet, the hare, the mongoose and the wildcat.

HERITAGE: pontoon in schist; dams and watermills.

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*; *peixinhos* 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

right way

wrong way

turn left

turn right



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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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NIS

WALKING PATH OF THE DAMS



PATH NETWORK IN NATURE



Walking path description



Fisga do Tejo. Artificial crevice, about 10 m high, made with the aim of diverting the course of Ribeira do Fivel.

The walking path begins in the village of Salavessa, where the white houses with colourful trim or with the traditional roughened mortar and large chimneys stand out. Walk through the narrow streets of the village, admiring the traditional windows and doors and visit the hermitage dedicated to São Jacinto. Leave through the rear part of Salavessa, where the first houses were built. The landscape changes dramatically, with schist hay sheds, the corrals and huts. The path continues on between walls, over dirt and stone paths, over steep slopes, accompanied by a landscape of cork oak forest, down towards the Tagus. It reaches the bank of the Tagus River at a pontoon on the water's edge and follows an old pathway that ends at *Fisga do Tejo*, an artificial rift that once crossed leads to the first weir of Ribeira do Fivel, in the heart of the Serra de São Miguel. Continue following the Ribeira do Fivel, and you pass by a second weir and, later, by an apiary wall disguised in the vegetation. Wind your way through the hills, admire the dams and pass by norias with their irrigation channels, formerly used for irrigating vegetable gardens. The climb continues passing next to the terraces of olive trees, until you return to Salavessa.



Places of Interest

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- 2 Pontoon in schist
- 3 Tagus's pathway
- 4 Fisga do Tejo
- 5 Resting area
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- 13 Viewpoint



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* (*Anaecypris 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.