

PELOS MONTES DO CANTINHO DA RIBEIRA

WALKING TRAILS BEJA
TRINDADE

PR
3
BJA

SITUATION

Trindade is a village located in the south of the municipality of Beja. Its vocation is eminently agriculture. Here the rivers of Terges and Cobres converge before flowing into the Guadiana. Vineyards, olive groves cork oak and gentle pine forest mark the landscape which characterizes this route, integrated in the Castro Verde SPA, (Special Protection Area) considered by experts as the most important area in Portugal for the conservation of grassland avifauna, notably the bustard and the lesser kestrel. But it's Cantinho da Ribeira, right in the heart of the route, which tells the tragic story of this site immortalized by the words of the portuguese writer Manuel da Fonseca...

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

Start at the Parish Council (Junta de Freguesia) and head straight on until reaching a beaten track. Carry on through the plain with fields of cereal crops, until the vineyard, leaving it on the right at Monte dos Pelados. Further ahead turn right into a traditional olive grove and some holm oaks. Next go downhill to the Vilar 'arroyo', in an area in which the oak pasture becomes denser, continue as far as the Terges River. Walk along the left bank that is usually easier to walk (in times of heavy rains it is difficult to cross on foot). The rugged terrain along the river and riparian vegetation make this landscape particularly interesting. Carry straight on, there is a barrier, which if closed you should close after you. Traverse an area of new forestation of holm oak and cross to Monte dos Cotovios. Here there is another barrier for which there is the same recommendation. You arrive at the crossroad that leads to Cantinho da Ribeira, at km 2.5. Monte do Oliveirinha, Monte do Pombeiro, Monte da Estrada, Monte do Vau and finally Azinhalinho, are some of the farmsteads that you cross and which form part of Cantinho da Ribeira. In Azinhalinho, go to the primary school, where you can get your breath back, resting in the shade of the huge eucalyptus with a picnic. The information panel located there tells the tragic story of what happened at this location in the 1930s. Return by the same road and turn right to Monte do Touril, totally in ruins today. Go into the pine woods and head down to the river Terges. This stretch of river is more difficult to walk, on the right carry on to an area with large stones until you reach the other side, where you turn left following through rough terrain along the river until reaching the road to the right, which you should climb. Here one can see the overflow of the Pego dam and further ahead the dam itself. The plain, with olive groves, vineyards and fields of grain, re-emerges as we head North. The grapes from these vineyards give rise to some of the notable wines of the municipality of Beja, Herdade da Mingorra. Carry on along the tarmac where you turn left into the village again, where the route ends.

POINTS OF INTEREST

TRINDADE VILLAGE

Located in the far Southwest of the municipality of Beja, with about of 274 inhabitants, it is located on the left bank of the Terges river and borders with the municipality of Mértola to the south. It is an ancient village, whose histor-

ical origins are unknown. The oldest records date back to the 16th century.

Some farmsteads form part of the parish, including the 'Courelas' where almost all the houses are in ruins as does Cantinho da Ribeira, a symbolic place that inspired the portuguese writer Manuel da Fonseca, in his novel 'Seara de Vento'.

TRINDADE PARISH

A 16th century building, which underwent restoration in the 1960s with slight modifications to its outer structure.

CANTINHO DA RIBETRA

Cantinho da Ribeira is a site consisting of a group of small farmsteads, which resemble small villages, those that stand out are Monte do Azinhalinho, Monte dos Pombeiros and Monte da Estrada. It is situated on the left bank of the Terges river. It came into notice in the 1930s because of the tragic events that occurred there and served as inspiration to Manuel da Fonseca, in his novel 'Seara de Vento', a work that portrays the social reality of the region and the epoch. The events were centred around a rural worker accused of stealing cereals from a farmer.

AUTO DE NATAL

Auto de Natal, known as 'the living Nativity', is a tradition that the people of Trindade continue to maintain. Based on an ancient text that D. Mariana Lopes inherited from her father it was upheld by her religiously every year, at Christmas time. The people of the village would volunteer for a tradition that is ingrained into their soul and give it the name 'Auto de Natal'. An event that takes place between Christmas and twelfth night, and goes on until late in the night, warming the hearts of all those who closely watch the representation.

NATURAL VALUES

FLORA AND FAUNA

The Terges river, around the village of Trindade, rises in the municipality of Castro Verde and flows down to the confluence with the Cobres river, forming the Terges-e-Cobres river that flows into the Guadiana, a short distance upstream from Pulo do Lobo (geosite). It runs temporarily (usually from December to May) with occasional flash floods after heavy rain.

The river is very rich in flora and fauna and serves as a biological support for various animal species.

Barbel, Iberian nase and roach are plentiful in its waters, and also some exotic introduced fish such as the pumpkin-seed and largemouth bass.

The surrounding fauna is immense, from **mammals** such as otter, wild boar, hare, rabbit, genet and others... to a galaxy of **birds** such as turtle doves, blackbirds, chaffinch, goldfinch, linnet, the great tit, bee-eaters, rufous robins, montagu's harrier and common crane. There is also a great variety of insects including **butterflies** and moths like the beautiful *Zerinthya rumina* (butterfly) or the equally spectacular *Utheteisapulchella* (moth).

On the river and in the pools there are also dragonflies such as *Aeshnamixta*.

CASTRO VERDE SPA

The Castro Verde SPA integrates a nucleus area called 'white field', a region of peneplain dedicated to extensive agriculture and livestock, with predominantly vast areas of farm land. Here there are pastures of holm oak, heathlands dominated by cistus and traditional olive groves. It is the most important area, in Portugal, for the conservation of grassland birds, notably the great bustard and the lesser kestrel. Other birds which are found here in relatively large numbers are the European roller, the little bustard, black-bellied sandgrouse, lark, the stone curlew and Montagu's harrier.

Especially found in this area are the golden plover, lapwing, meadow pipit, red kite, hen harrier and merlin. Regular visitors are black vulture, griffon vulture, golden eagle, the iberian imperial eagle and Bonelli's eagle.

GEOLOGY

The route develops in the Portuguese North Zone (ZSP), between the volcanic and sedimentary rock of the Faixa Piritosa (Quartz Phyllite and Complex volcanic-sedimentary Group). Of these lithologies the most easily identifiable is the schist or jasper (impure often reddishsilica). But, without a doubt the most spectacular geology is the resistance of the silicon rocks against the wear and tear of the waters of the Terges river.

WINE TOURISM

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ACCOMMODATION

Agro-turismo Xistos

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Tourist Office: 284 311 913 / turismo@cm-beja.pt
www.cm-beja.pt

Parish Council: 284 952 137

Medical emergency and in case of Fires: 112

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FACTSHEET

NAME: PELOS MONTES DO CANTINHO DA RIBEIRA

PARISH: UNIÃO DE FREGUESIAS DE ALBERNOA E TRINDADE - ALBERNOA

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION: Trindade, Beja

From Beja to Trindade go along the IP2 towards the Algarve, at about 10 km turn left and enter the village. At the roundabout turn right until you reach the parish council (Junta da Freguesia), where the route starts.

TYPE OF ROUTE: Circular

DISTANCE: 18.5 km (This route has a variant PR3.1 -1.3km)

APPROXIMATE DURATION: 5h

TYPE OF SURFACE: Nature trails and rural tracks

UNEVENNESS: Some gentle inclines and descents

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Somewhat difficult

GROUND: Beaten track, a short stretch of tarmac at the end

STARTING AND FINISHING POINT: Trindade

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES: 37°53'06.9"N 7°53'42.5"W

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP: N°s 530; 531; 539; 540

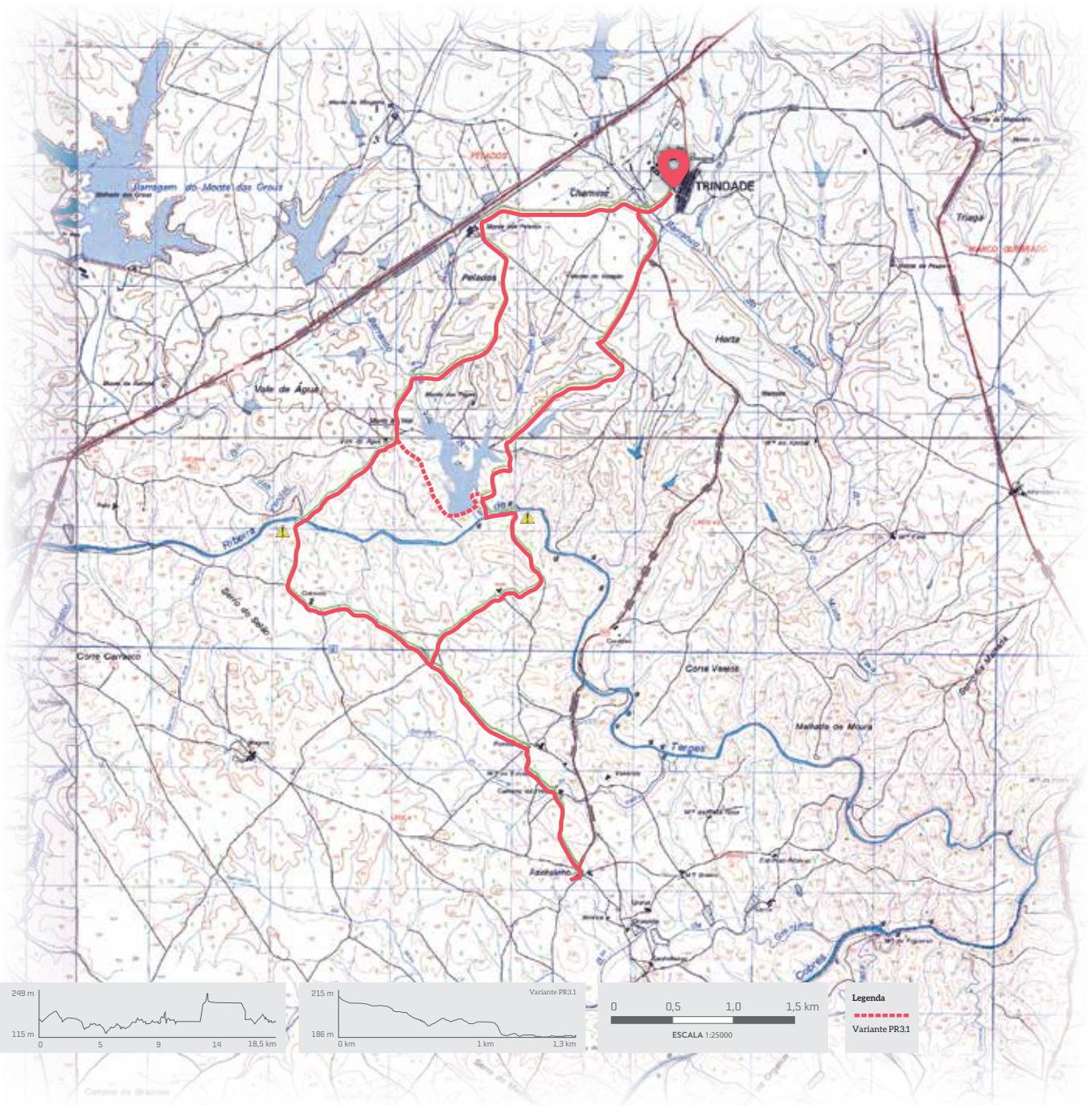
WHERE TO PARK: There is parking at the location

REGULATIONS: Castro Verde SPA / Natura 2000 network (The whole route is within the Castro Verde SPA)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Stock up on food and water in one of the cafés or grocery stores in the village;
- Follow the indicated tracks;
- Respect private property, always close gates;
- Respect nature;
- Avoid noises and attitudes that disturb the tranquillity of the area;
- Don't leave litter or vestiges of your passage. Tracks without toilet, take a bag and leave the track clean;
- Be very careful with the cattle, because although docile they usually react with aggressiveness when strangers approach their offspring;
- Do not light fires;
- Use comfortable clothes and shoes and take a hat and sunscreen;
- Calculate the time of the route in order to finish before dark;
- In periods of intense rain crossing the Terges could be subject to conditions;
- In the summer avoid the hottest parts of the day;
- Be careful in hunting season between August 15 and February 28;
- Take binoculars as it is an important area for bird watching;
- Be friendly with the locals, elucidate them about the signage of the route and ongoing activities.

MAP



Legenda
----- Variante PR31