



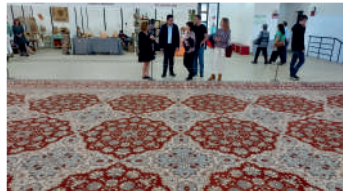
**Town of Arraiolos**

Nestling between three hills and boasting an excellent elevated position, it has Arraiolos Castle as a landmark. The circular wall and some ruins of the castle have survived to the present day. Almost Romantic in appearance, they frame the splendid Igreja Matriz do Salvador (Main Church of the Saviour). The urban space with its narrow streets and whitewashed houses holds memories of significant human occupation since the earliest days of the Portuguese nation, heir to previous civilisations and clearly attested to by the many archaeological vestiges.



**Cork and holm oak "Montado"**

An agriculture, forestry and livestock system in which humans play a key role by harvesting cork and firewood, through bee keeping, agriculture and pastoral farming, and thereby ensure that it is preserved. A *montado* can contain both cork oaks and holm oaks, trees that are perfectly adapted to the Mediterranean climate, as well as many other species of plants and animals, thereby creating an ecosystem that is rich in biodiversity and one of the most iconic farming landscapes in the south of the country.



**Arraiolos Carpets**

Date back to before the sixteenth century and which have been produced on quite a large scale since the eighteenth century, became increasingly popular and were to be found in palaces and mansions all over the country. They are embroidered by hand, using only a needle and pure wool thread in various colours, on a jute or cotton backcloth. Replete with history embroidered by generations of embroiderers, they are one of the best-known and oldest forms of handicraft in Portugal, maintaining traditional patterns while also seeking modern variations.



**Ecotrail**

**The old railway line**

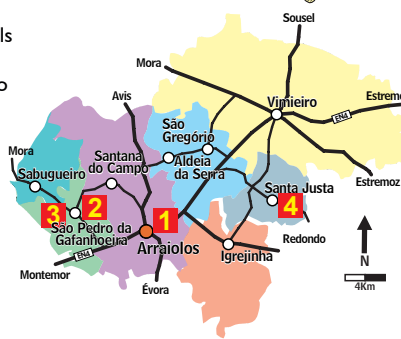
The Mora branch line once played a very important role in the development of the rural areas between Évora, Arraiolos and Mora. Inaugurated in 1907, thousands of trains ran along its length until 1990, transporting passengers and cargo, in particular grain and livestock. The line is no longer active and, since there are no more trains on it, it is now a marvellous trail that is perfect for walkers and cyclists.

Covering an area of 683.75 km<sup>2</sup> and with a population of around 7,000, the municipality of Arraiolos is located in the Central Alentejo, half way between the Atlantic coast and Spain. This is a distinctly rural area, with large expanses of cork and holm oak *montado* forest and it has succeeded in developing its urban centres and preserving its culture and traditional local crafts. The municipality's trademark products are the artisan Arraiolos Rugs, and the Empada de Arraiolos®, small savoury pies.



**PR - SHORT ROUTES**

- PR1 Between Stitches and Hills of Arraiolos
- PR2 Route of the Lanes of São Pedro da Gafanhoeira
- PR3 Route of the "Montado" of São Pedro da Gafanhoeira
- PR4 Route of the Sobreira Grande



*The walking trails in the remaining civil parishes are being prepared and will be published soon.*

**CONDUCT AND SAFETY**

This trail is reserved for walkers only. Walk in a group; avoid going alone. Wear a hat and suitable clothing and footwear for your intended walk. Take a backpack with plenty of food and water. Be respectful of public and private property. Leave gates and barriers the way you found them. Avoid using plastic items and dispose of rubbish in the proper places. No naked flames or lighting fires of any kind. Make use of local services for overnight stays, meals and shopping.



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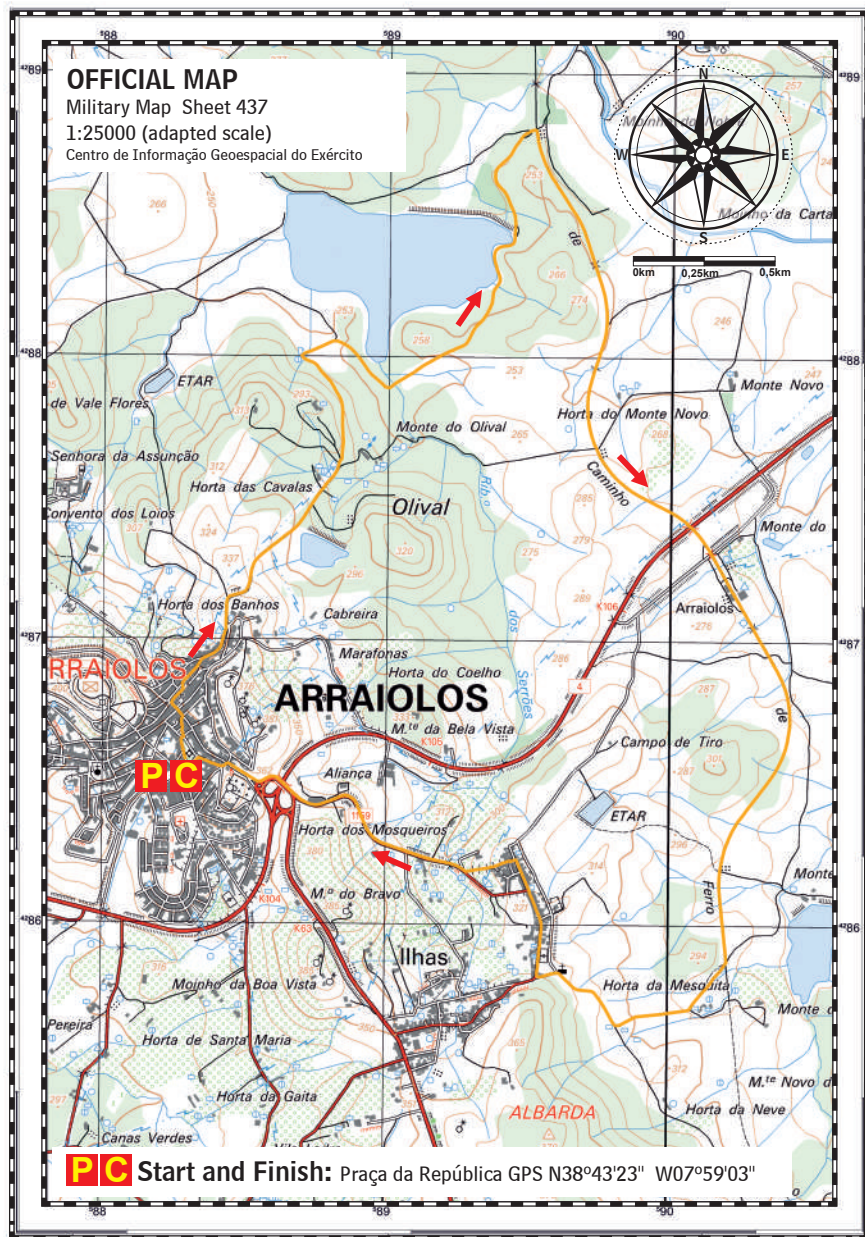
PR 1  
ARL

# BETWEEN STITCHES AND HILLS OF ARRAIOLOS

Walking Trails of  
ARRAIOLOS . ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL

9.4 km  
Circular  
2.5 a 3 horas  
●●○○○

When we are in Arraiolos, the first thing that comes to mind is the famous art of embroidery, widely applied to carpets for decorative purposes and normal use. This is an ancient legacy of a territory whose memories go far back in the mists of time and whose high point is the village of whitewashed houses from which there is a view over neverending fields. The countryside here is replete with oak groves. Once crossed by trains, it is now a marvellous space for walkers.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAIL

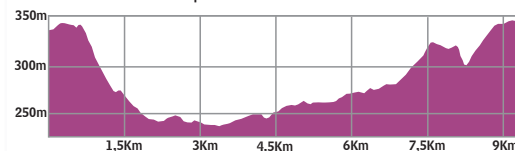
Start next to the bandstand in Praça da República and take Travessa Torta to reach the main production centre for Arraiolos Carpets, with its various shops. Go through Largo da Misericórdia Square and head towards Praça do Município, where the town hall and the Arraiolos Carpets Interpretation Centre are located. Leave the town along Rua do Espírito Santo and then Rua Cabo da Vila. The country path gives way to a dirt track and you start a long and rather steep downhill section through countryside consisting of oak groves dotted with little farms. There is an important reservoir and sports fishing facility on the Oleirita Dam and the scenery is beautiful, a feast for the eyes both on the descent and once you reach the banks. Walk along the banks until you reach the ecotrail which takes you along what used to be an old railway line. When you walk along the ecotrail you will be exploring a veritable feat of human engineering. The embankments designed by the engineers to keep the railway line as level as possible mean that the bends are gently inclined and there are practically no steep slopes. Leave the ecotrail along a country path that's a bit difficult to spot, right before a big water tank on the path. Now take a country path as far as the Chapel of Nossa Senhora de Fátima at a place called Ilhas. Go around the garden and take Rua António Piteira and, almost at the end, turn along Rua Fria. From here, you start going uphill through modern roads accessible to traffic. Cross over national road EN4 and go into Arraiolos along Rua de São Francisco which will bring you back to garden you set off from.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Town of Arraiolos
- Arraiolos Carpets
- Church of Mercy
- Arraiolos Carpets Interpretation Centre
- Ecotrail (the old railway line)
- Cork and holm oak "Montado"

## ALTITUDE GRAPH

Check the relationship between distance and altitude scales



## DATA SHEET

Path: Loop  
Distance: 9.4 km  
Accumulated elev.: 224m  
Duration: 2,5 a 3 horas

Difficulty: Medium-  
Surface: Country paths  
and secondary roads  
Season: All year

## SIGNAGE



## EMERGENCY

Emergency 112  
Fire Alert 117  
Environment 808 200 520  
GNR SEPNA sepna@gnr.pt

FCMP - Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal