



São Pedro da Gafanhoeira

The oldest references to the village date back to 1st February 1290, when the king, D. Dinis, ordered his *Sesmeiro* (land distribution officer) Pedro Caria to undertake the settlement of Reguengo da Vide in the Charter of Settlement. At the end of the Middle Ages, a charitable confraternity was created, which owned an inn for poor people and pilgrims, and a leper hospital to provide a home for lepers. Owing to its location, there was a constant presence of religious orders. There is still evidence of that influence today, with rare remains such as the Caravaca Cross carved on an old mill, demonstrating that it was owned by the Society of Jesus.



Alentejo "Monte"

Dotted across the plateau of the Alentejo, the "montes" are small family estates. Their buildings are mainly residential and are accompanied by other buildings when they form part of agricultural estates, creating clusters such as that at Monte dos Testos. Built in an austere, simple style, this is one of the trademarks of a region where the sunlight accentuates the whiteness and the shadows are unbroken.



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.



Cattle farming

Livestock farming is one of the activities of the *montado*, and it is an important economic activity in the Alentejo. The fields were traditionally occupied by shepherds and herds of ewes and goats (producing milk for making cheese) or herds of Iberian pigs eating acorns, but today they are mainly inhabited by beef cattle, which means that the estates have to be fenced. For this reason, whenever you go through a gate, leave it as you find it.

Covering an area of 683.75 km² 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 WALKING TRAILS

PR1 Between "Pontos e Colinas" of Arraiolos
PR2 Route of the Lanes of São Pedro da Gafanhoeira
PR3 Route of the "Montado" of São Pedro da Gafanhoeira



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 3
ARL**

ROUTE OF THE "MONTADO" OF
SÃO PEDRO DA GAFANHOEIRA



Walking Trails of

ARRAIOLOS . ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL



ROUTE OF THE "MONTADO" OF SÃO PEDRO DA GAFANHOEIRA

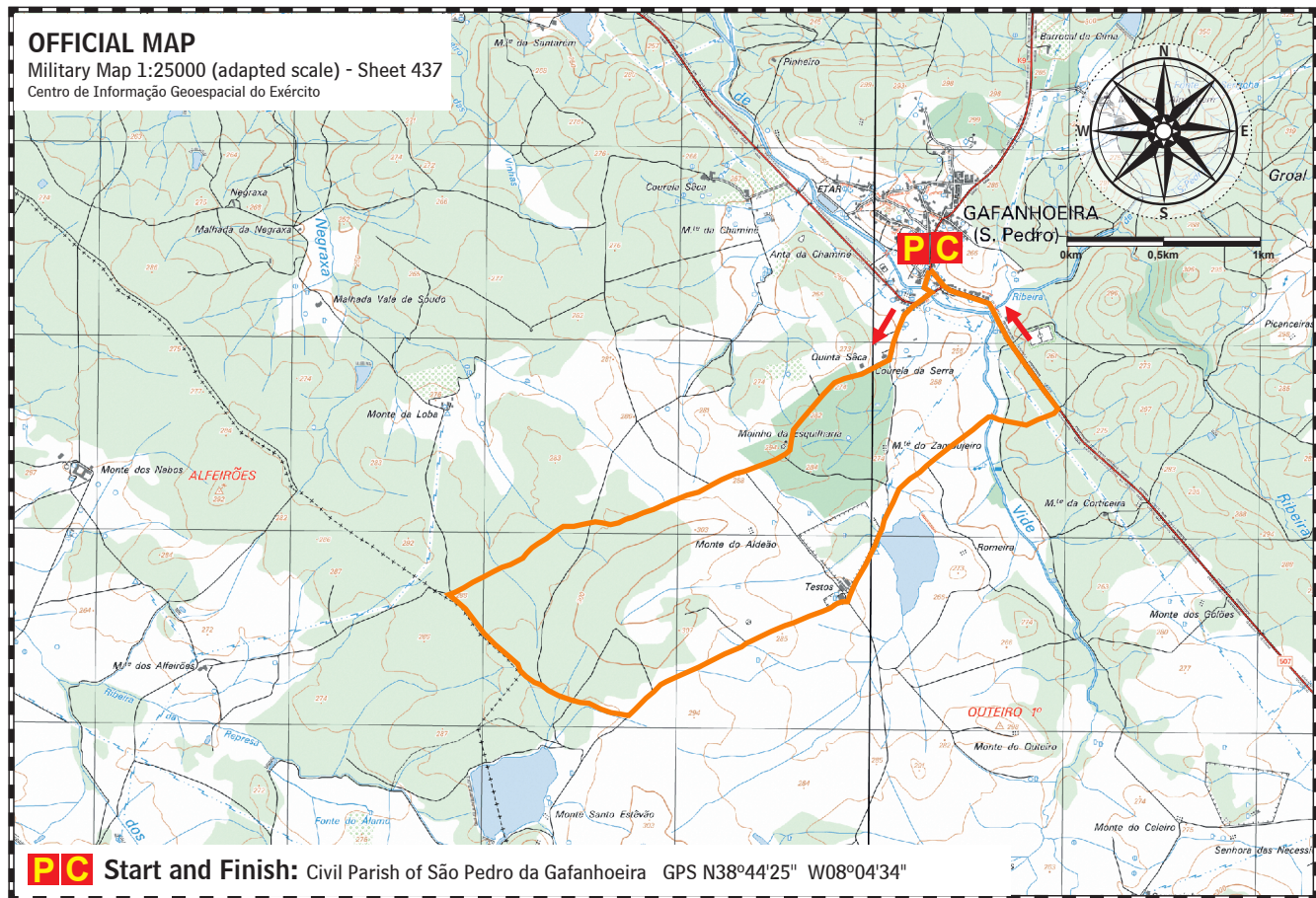
Walking Trails of ARRAIOLOS . ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL

8.35 km
Circular
2 to 2.5 hours
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To the south of São Pedro da Gafanhoeira, on a plain as far as the eye can see, the traditional landscape of the *montado*, an oak forest where cattle graze in an extensive system, alternates with fields for the production of cereals and fodder. Monte dos Testos, once the residence of the owners and workers, retains the typical structure of the large-scale Alentejo agricultural estate. On the horizon, you can see the greens of the forested areas, the gold of the undulating cropland in the summer, the blue of the water that is home to a wide range of birdlife, the red of the clay and the white of the whitewashed houses.

OFFICIAL MAP

Military Map 1:25000 (adapted scale) - Sheet 437
Centro de Informação Geoespacial do Exército



PC Start and Finish: Civil Parish of São Pedro da Gafanhoeira GPS N38°44'25" W08°04'34"

POINTS OF INTEREST

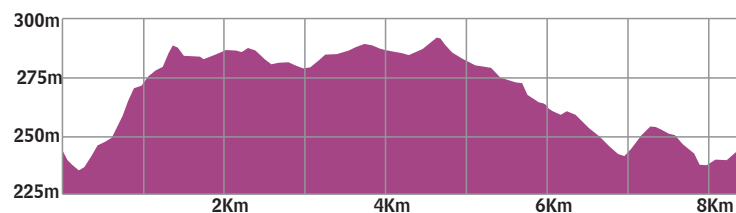
Ribeira de Vide (Vide River)
Stone pines and cork oaks
Moinho da Esquilharia (mill)
Cork oak montado
Rural buildings for cattle
Monte dos Testos estate
Birds on the reservoir

DATA SHEET

Path: Loop.
Distance: 8.35 km.
Accumulated elev.: 148 m.
Duration: 2 to 2.5 hours.
Difficulty: Medium(-).
Surface: Country paths and urban roads.
Season: All year.

ALTITUDE GRAPH

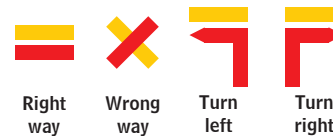
Check the relationship between distance and altitude scales.



DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAIL

On leaving the building of the civil parish council, turn left, go down, enter the footbridge and turn left. Cross the wooden bridge over the Vide river. Further on, turn left into the narrow street in the midst of the houses. At the end, follow the dirt track on the right that crosses a wood of stone pines and cork oaks. Walk around the mill known as the Moinho da Esquilharia and continue through open fields until you come to a fine, dense montado of cork oaks which runs alongside the trail for about 1 km. At the crossroads, turn left, continuing to walk between cork oaks. Pass through a gate, and continue straight on until you come to a second gate where you turn left on to the path. Continue towards Monte dos Testos, a working agricultural estate. On the left, you can see an interesting round structure for cattle, which might also be found grazing there. Cross the estate, and continue along the path in front of you, leaving the silos on your left. Follow the wall, and, on the right, don't miss the chance to see the birds on a small reservoir, and one of the several dolmens to be found at Testos. Cross the fields of crops, cross the Vide river with its riverside vegetation, continue into a small area of montado oak forest, leave the estate and, at the road, turn left in the direction of the village. Walk over the small São Pedro river, a tributary of the Vide, and return to the starting point along Rua

SIGNAGE



FCMP - Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal

EMERGENCY

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