



**Sobreira Grande**

Voted "Tree of the Year" in 2022, it represented Portugal that year in the European Tree of the Year competition, and came in third place. It is around 250 years old, and is 12 metres high and 30 metres in diameter at its crown. It stands out from the other trees in the forest thanks to its size. Its majestic dimensions surprise people who come across it, and for many years, in the heat of summer, its shade gave shelter to humans and animals, and was where the farm labourers would gather for lunch. For this reason, the Sobreira Grande is much loved and greatly prized by the local community.



**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.



**Ponte de Santa Luzia**

The bridge was probably built in the mid-19th century on the road that linked Évora to Estremoz, passing through Santa Justa, and that would have complemented the existing roads that linked Aldeia Galega (Montijo) to Elvas, through Évora and Estremoz. It was designed in 1808 during the first French invasion; a special construction system was adopted, using foundations with a solid base from one side of the stream to the other. The deck has been rebuilt and access from the banks is via gentle slopes which are paved with large stone slabs to stand up to the power of the water.



**Vale do Pereiro**

The village came into being at the end of the 19th century and became well established during the 20th century around 1,500 metres from Santa Justa, where the church with the same name stands, which was built at the start of the 16th century. The settlement of Santa Justa dates back to the Iron Age, and it is also possible to identify it as a place of settlement during the Roman period.

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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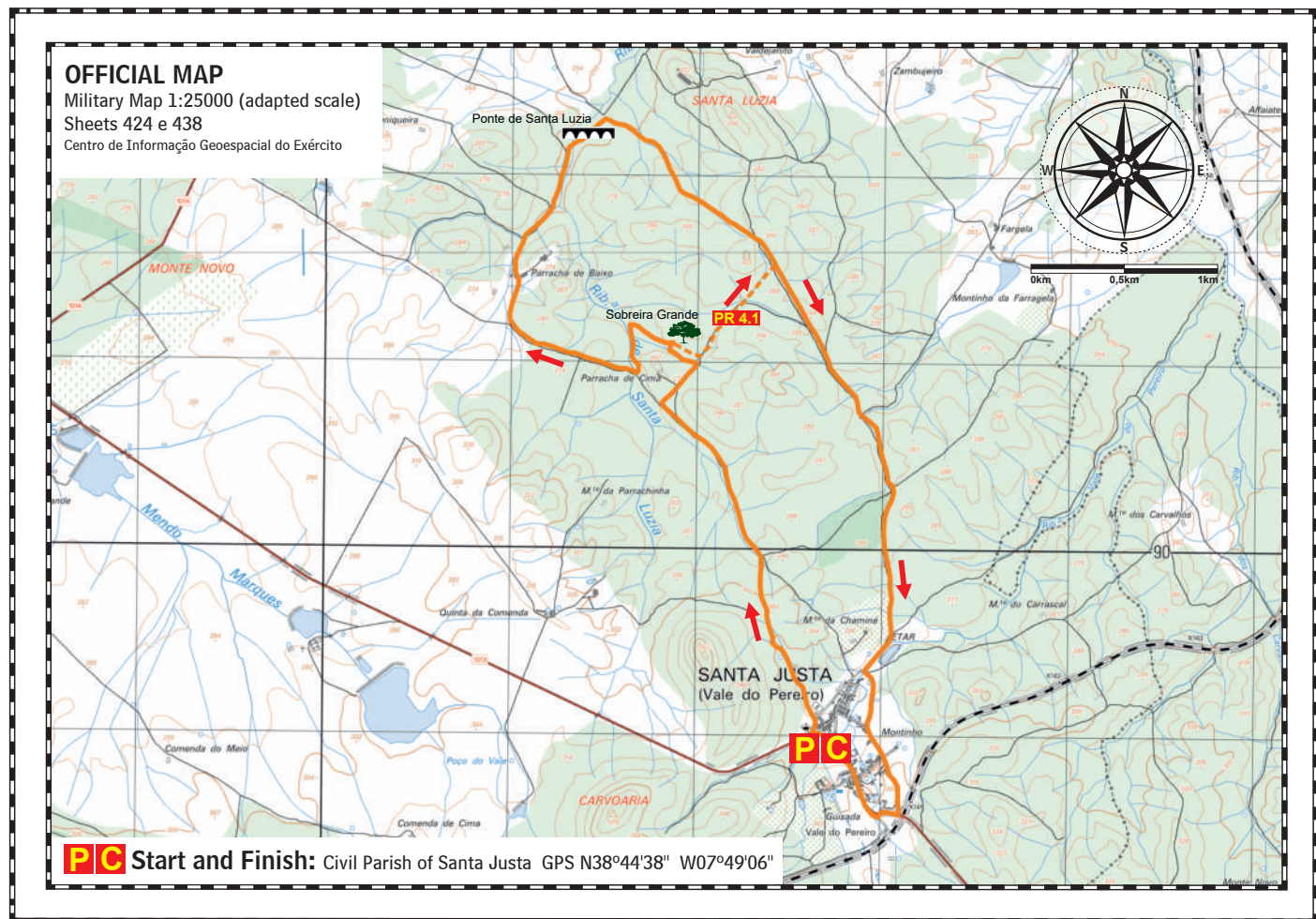
**PR 4  
ARL**

# ROUTE OF SOBREIRA GRANDE

**Walking Trails of ARRAIOS . ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL**

**10.4 km  
Circular  
2.5 a 3 hours  
●●○○○**

Whenever you walk through a cork oak forest, you experience moments of wonderful serenity as you appreciate the landscapes that the cork oaks and holm oaks provide. This ecosystem created by humans for producing cork and wood is a rich habitat for various ecological chains of fauna, flora and fungus; and standing here in the landscape is an outstanding specimen, the famous tree known as the "Sobreira Grande" (Big Cork Oak), which was voted Portuguese Tree of 2022 and came third in the competition European Tree of the Year 2022.



### DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAIL

Leave the square in front of the civil parish council in the direction of the church, turn right and immediately left on to the dirt track that continues straight on for around two kilometres. Where indicated, turn right towards the Sobreira Grande cork oak and walk around the water course until you pass close to the imposing, prize-winning tree. Continue in a northerly direction and turn left, crossing the water course again. When you reach the main track, turn right and, at the junction you reach after 750m, turn right. Pass to left of the livestock holding and continue along the river that you cross after around 500m. Then continue through the cork forest along a poorly defined trail until you reach the bridge called Ponte de Santa Luzia. Cross the bridge, and then continue again along a somewhat hidden trail until you are close to the fence; turn right here and start walking up a gentle slope between the trees. The trail then becomes clearer before turning into a well-defined rural track. Continue for about 3.6km until you reach a small bridge as you arrive at the village. Turn left and continue along the street that goes around Vale Pereiro. Pass close to Pepe Aromas, which you may decide to visit, and then head towards the centre of the village and the place where you started the walk.

Short alternative: From the Sobreira Grande cork oak, you may opt for an alternative route signposted as the PR4.1, which makes the walk shorter (7.3km), but it doesn't go over the Ponte de Santa Luzia.

### DATA SHEET

**COMPLET VERSION**  
Distance: 10.4 km  
Accumulated elev.: 179 m  
Duration: 2.5 a 3 horas

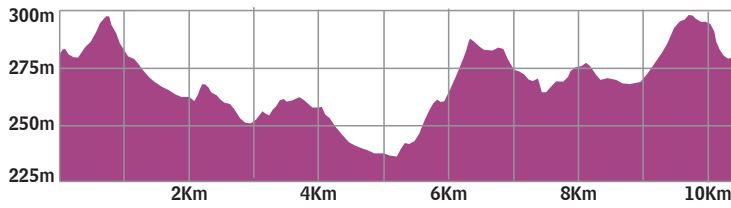
**SHORT VERSION**  
Distance: 7.3 km  
Accumulated elev.: 128 m  
Duration: 2 a 2.5 horas

Path: Loop  
Difficulty: Medium-/Low  
Surface: Country paths  
Season: All year

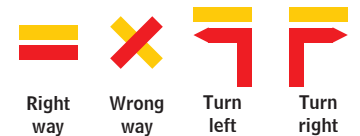
**POINTS OF INTEREST**  
Village of Vale de Pereiro  
Cork oak montado  
Sobreira Grande  
Ponte de Santa Luzia (Bridge)

### ALTITUDE GRAPH

Check the relationship between distance and altitude scales.



### SIGNAGE



### EMERGENCY

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

FCMP - Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal