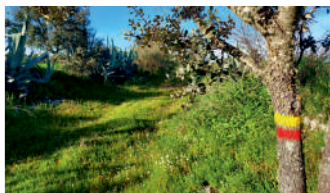




Vimieiro, land of music

Archaeological remains from the Neolithic and the Roman period provide evidence of the town being a site of early human occupation, but it confirmed its position as a settlement from the 13th century onwards, gaining its charter in 1257. From 1437, it belonged to the County of Vimieiro. From the mid-18th century, it became a place of lively cultural activity, which started on the initiative of the last holder of the title, Dom Sancho de Faro e Sousa, and his wife, the poet Dona Teresa de Mello Breyner. The Enlightenment inspiration of the era left its artistic mark on Vimieiro, which still today is a place of music and the arts.



Ancient paths

Evidence of the geographical importance of Vimieiro can be found in several places; this has been a site of road building since the Roman period. It is thought that a secondary road would have passed through this location on the Antonine Itinerary between Olisipo (Lisbon) and Emérita Augusta (Mérida). Many of the ancient routes are now hidden by new roads and rural tracks, but small stretches can still be found for pedestrian use only.



Churches and Chapels

The Main Church of Vimieiro, dedicated to Our Lady of the Incarnation of Sobral, is the only church still used for worship of the five examples that can be seen along the trail, which include the Convent of São Francisco and the Chapels of Santo António, São João and São Pedro. These chapels might owe their isolated locations to the Christianisation of former Islamic areas or to undertakings by landowners as payment for promises or as an affirmation of their Christian faith. Their abandonment as places of worship led to their state of almost total ruin.



Rural Character

The whole area is characterised by a rural landscape, worked by men and women for agriculture and livestock farming. Huge fields of crops can be seen, alternating with small patches of woodland of cork trees and holm oaks, and pasture for sheep, goats and cows. Human occupation in the rural areas takes the form of small residential and agricultural settlements known as “montes” (meaning small estates), many of which have their origins in the ancient Roman villas.

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 ROUTES

- PR1 Between Stitches and Hills
- PR2 Route of the Lanes
- PR3 Route of the “Montado”
- PR4 Route of the “Sobreira Grande”
- PR5 Route of the Chapels



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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turismo@cm-arraiolos.pt



visitarraiolos.pt



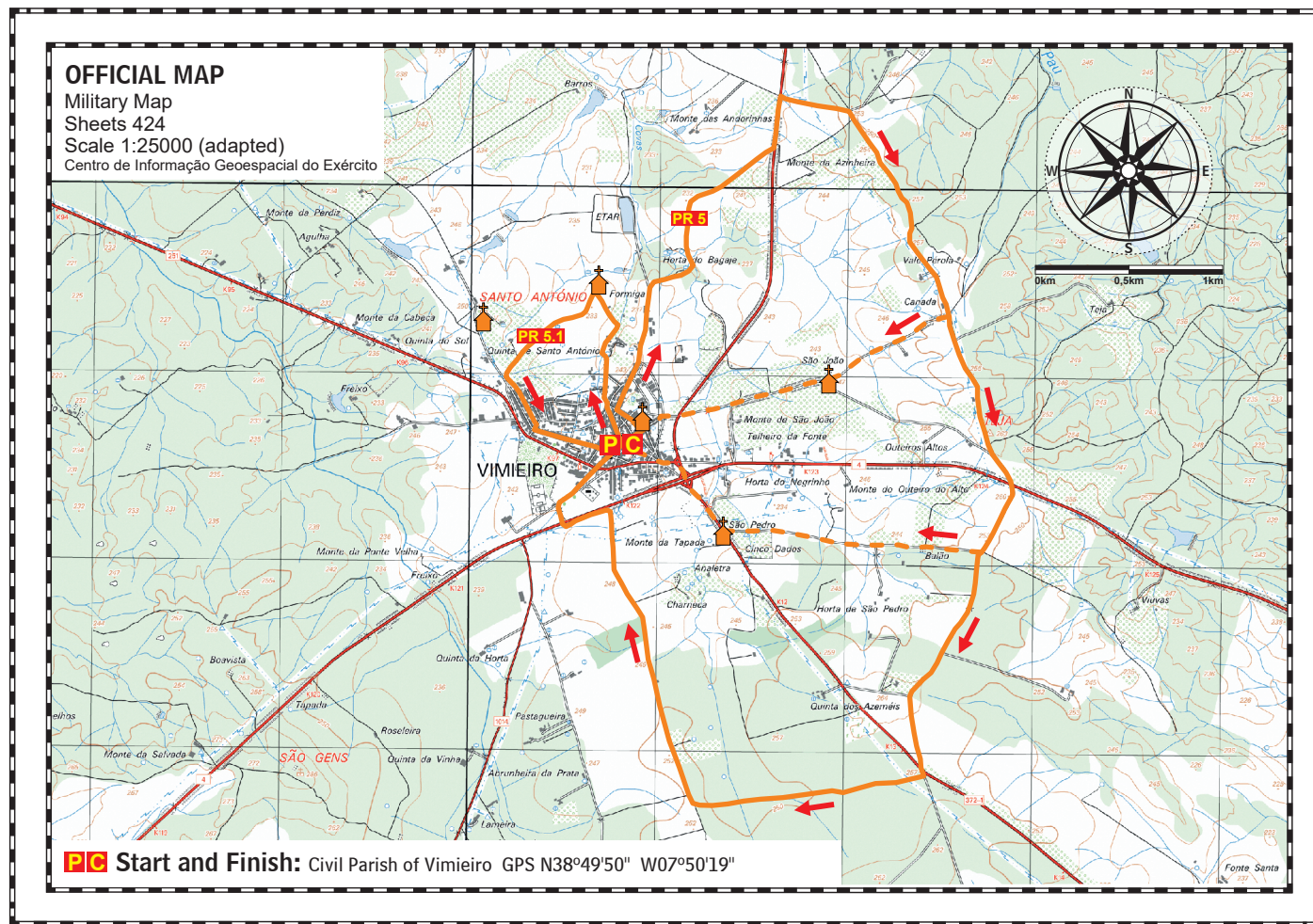
**PR 5
ARL**

ROUTE OF THE CHAPELS OF VIMIEIRO

**Walking Trails of
ARRAIOLOS . ALENTEJO . PORTUGAL**

**10.5km/2.4km
Loop
3 hours
●○○○**

The town of Vimieiro is the starting point for different walking trails that will cross the fields surrounding it. It is possible to view landscapes dominated by the rural nature of spacious pastureland with sheep, goats and cows in perfect harmony with their surroundings and, along the way, a number of chapels can be seen, standing as religious remains of times gone by and nowadays in a state of disrepair as they are no longer used as places of worship.

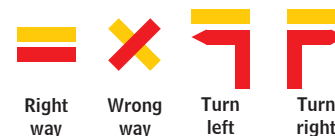


DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAIL

This trail has several alternatives to allow for varying levels of fitness and amounts of time needed to complete the walk. It comprises a short trail of 2.4km and a long trail of 10.5km, which can be combined to make a total of 12.9km. There are two options for shortening the long trail, to 6km and 7.6km, which are only signposted in a clockwise direction towards Vimieiro. All the options start on Praça Dr. Teófilo Salvado, in front of the Vimieiro Parish Council office. The short option heads northwest along Rua do Mato and the long option northeast along Rua da Igreja. In the short option, the trail heads through the town and through the fields surrounding it, passing close to the ruins of the Convent of São Francisco and with a glimpse of the Chapel of Santo António, and then returning through the urban area. In the long option, you can walk along rural dirt trails, stretches of ancient footpaths, and see fields of crops, pastureland and woodland. In this option, it is possible to shorten the trail along the path of the Chapel of São João and, further ahead, along the path of the Chapel of São Pedro, with all the options ending back at the starting point.

ATTENTION: The trail crosses roads several times, some of which have heavy traffic and have no pedestrian crossings marked. Be extremely careful, pay great attention and cross the roads with the greatest care. If walking in a group, cross the roads individually or in small groups.

SIGNAGE



EMERGENCY

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

TECHNICAL DETAILS

LONG TRAIL
Distance: 10.5km
Accumulated elev.: 130m
Duration: 3 hours

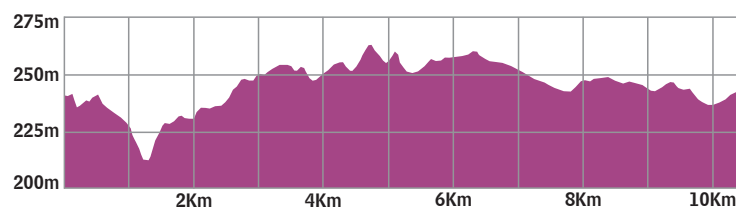
SHORT TRAIL
Distance: 2.4km
Accumulated elev.: 42m
Duration: 1 hour

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

POINTS OF INTEREST
Town of Vimieiro
Churches and Chapels
Ancestral paths
Rural landscape

ALTITUDE GRAPH LONG TRAIL

Check the relationship between distance and altitude scales.



FCMP - Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal