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This is the route that connects the Historical Way to the Fishermen's Trail in the northern part of Rota Vicentina. On this route, the hiker feels the strong connection between this region and the sea, traveling toward the coast to Porto Covo, a picturesque fishing village.

Starting from Cercal, the first part of the route goes through small farms, with hedges, vegetable gardens and orchards. Here, life passes to the rhythm of the sowing, the weed pruning and the crops. From an arid area, populated with eucalyptus, one arrives at a cork oak forest, and can also spot the famous strawberry tree. Although it is a bush, the strawberry tree grows to in a tree-like in shape and size. A true biodiversity hotspot, there are more than 150 different species of plants that appear along the route! About a quarter of these plants are endemic to the Iberian Peninsula, and some only exist on the southwest coast of Portugal. Along the route, you will also catch the scent of aromatic plants, such as lavender, thyme, calamints or rosemary.

On the coastal plateau, wheat fields dominate, where the larks, pipits, corn buntings and warblers cheer up the landscape even in the summer heat. These birds have perfect camouflage essential to escape predators, especially the nesting females. The nest is a geometrically perfect cup, dug into the ground and lined with dried herbs and moss. The lark's nest is so mimetic that we may be looking at it and we don't realize that we see it. The kestrels, small birds of prey, fly over the wheat fields in search of these birds and mice as their prey. One feels the presence of the sea in the air along your walk as you breath and take in the blue in the horizon.

ROTA VICENTINA GENERAL RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

-  Walk only along the market trails.
-  The circulation of motor vehicles puts hikers at risk. Choose alternative paths.
-  The trails cross private properties; always close gates and fences. The cattle are tame but can get aggressive if you approach their offspring.
-  Respect Nature. Do not collect or disturb animals, plants or rocks.
-  Do not camp or light fires outside designated areas.
-  Trails without WC, bring bag and leave the paths clean.
-  Keep your dog on a leash and clean up after it.
-  Prepare your hike well, don't run any risks from lack of preparation or planning.

SOS

Emergency: 112
Environment and territory Police Department:
808 200 520

For further information on accommodation, restaurants and nature/cultural activities please contact the local Tourism Office or go to rotavicentina.com

HELP US

For any further information or help regarding the Rota Vicentina, please contact us:

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Certified by the European wide label "Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe".



Footpath registered and approved by FCMP, integrating GR 11 / E9, connecting Sagres to St. Petersburg

Download the **Rota Vicentina APP** and take it with you all the information about this route

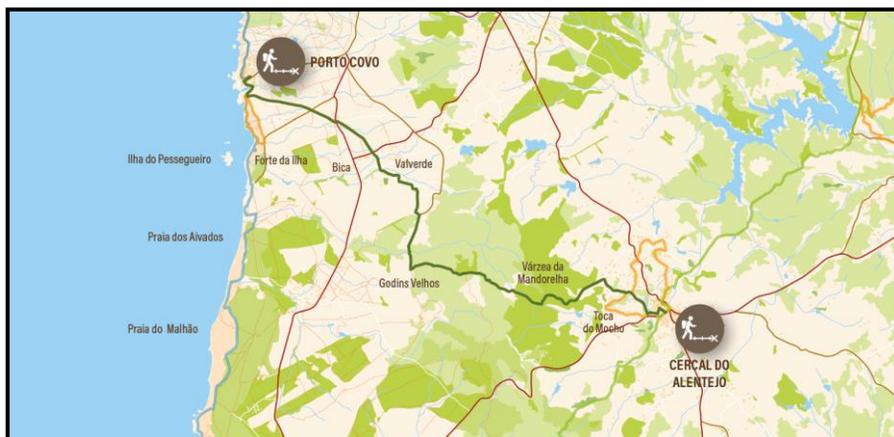




CERCAL DO ALENTEJO » PORTO COVO

HISTORICAL WAY | 16,5 KM

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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

From the roundabout in Cercal, take the road that goes towards Vila Nova de Milfontes and turn right to Humberto Delgado Street. Walk down the street past the wellknown Casa do Médico (doctor's house), ornated with beautiful tile panels. At the end, turn left onto Aldeia Galega Street and further on, turn right onto Combatentes da Grande Guerra Street. After passing by an old wash-house, take the first dirt path on your right and climb up to a peak to enjoy the view over the village. Continue by walking through a eucalyptus forest; afterwards, you will pass an estate nestled in the hills and surrounded by amazing diversity of nature with abundant cork oaks and various species of local flora. From here, the path will cross the Godins Stream, then continue along the asphalt road for approximately 1 km and finally turn left, next to the high walls of a property. Take a path on your right, lined with cork trees, and follow it until you pass a cluster of houses. Then, turn left at the guesthouse Cabeça da Cabra (previously, a school), pass between houses and, after 200 m, turn left again.

After another 300 m, take a path on your right towards a house and, after reaching it, turn left. Continue by walking past several houses through a beautiful area with cork oaks and a stream. Keep walking straight, crossing a small asphalt road and several houses, until you reach the village Pouca Farinha. Carefully cross the road and take time to enjoy a good sandwich at the local cafe. Continue walking straight and look for a recent, small road, which will be difficult to spot. After crossing it, you will start to see the ocean. Continue straight until you find the signs of the Fishermen's Trail. Turn right, cross the river in the fishing port and you will arrive at Porto Covo.

Fact Sheet

Distance : 16,5 km

Approximate duration: 5 h

Accumulated climb: 200 m

Accumulated descent: 300 m

Diffiuccult level: Easy

Max. / Min. altitude: 230 m / 0 m

Recommended season September till June

Where to start?

Cercal do Alentejo: from Largo dos Caeiros (central roundabout), follow the road towards Milfontes.

Porto Covo: at the Market square, heading towards the fishing port.

IMPORTANT WARNINGS

Pay attention to the signage as there are intersections with several Circular Routes.

TIPS

Refreshments along the way:

At km 13, at the locality Pouca Farinha.

