

**Warning: this is a document to support the walker, not being allowed to be reproduced for commercial purposes, without the written authorization of Rota Vicentina®.**

**This route along the coastal plateau crosses pastures and agricultural fields with sweet potatoes, corn, peanuts and tomatoes, through pinewood and eucalyptus patches. Throughout the settlements and hamlets, gardens have been cultivated in the same way for centuries in a very precise sequence, determined by the moons and solstices. For many families, the land provides over half of their livelihood, supplying fruit, vegetables, milk, eggs and livestock.**

Groundwater is so abundant in this coastal plateau that it surfaces in certain places at lower elevation, giving rise to wetlands, locally called brejo (marshes). The vegetation is unique, since not all plants can support so much water permanently in the soil. For some animals, swamps are places of food, shelter or breeding. The butterfly *Euphydryas aurinia*, protected at European level, is one example of a species that depends on these mosaics of humid meadows full of rushes and reeds. These marshes are also the ideal habitat for the Cabrera's vole, and the swamps are prime hunting places for birds and bats who hunt the small mammals and insects that live there.

In the small woods between agricultural parcels, aromatic shrubs like juniper, shrubby everlasting, lavender and rosemary thrive. In these groves it is also easy to find some rare plants, exclusive to the southwest of Portugal, such as *Adenocarpus anisochilus*, *Euphorbia transtagana*, *Thymus camphoratus* and *Centaurea vicentina*. In this area, partridges, quails, cattle egrets, European turtle doves, storks and starlings cohabit with the people of the region, and you can often hear the common nightingale singing in the riparian galleries.

At dusk, you can watch the elegance and agility of bats hunting insects over ponds or around public lighting. All species of bats that live in Portugal eat insects. Each animal consumes more than half of its weight in flying or crawling insects per night, with thousands of tons of insects annually consumed by bats! Bats thus play a very important ecological role, helping to control insect populations and prevent pests and diseases.

## 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](http://rotavicentina.com)

### HELP US

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

**E:** [info@rotavicentina.com](mailto:info@rotavicentina.com)

**T:** (+351) 283 327 669

**M:** (+351) 969 275 975

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



**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.**





# ODECEIXE » ALJEZUR

## HISTORICAL WAY | 19,5 KM

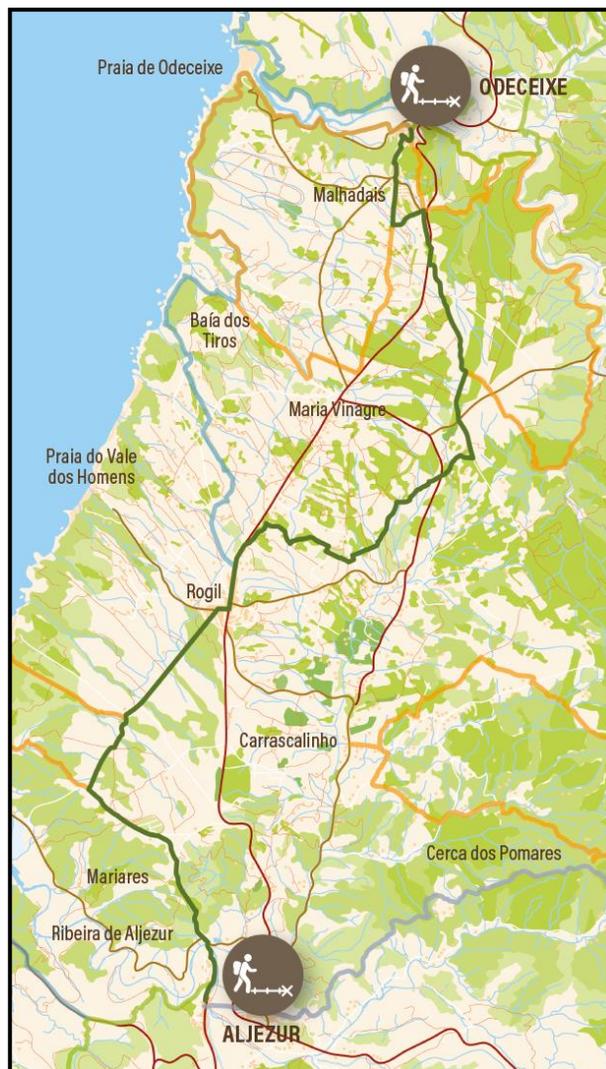
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## DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Walk through Odeceixe by following the staircase that passes near the church until you reach the windmill. Here you can stop to catch your breath and appreciate the view. Continue going up the slope until arriving at the village of Malhadais. Keep walking straight and pass the water tanks. After approximately 200 m, turn left following the red and white signs (the Circular Route Odeceixe to the Sea will continue straight). Follow a small road until you reach the football field, where the trail will turn right, following a narrow path leading to the national road. Be careful when crossing it! Afterwards, continue walking in the same direction through agricultural fields and forests, following the red, yellow and white signs, as this part of the trail overlaps with to the Circular Route

Odeceixe to the River. After 1.7 km, turn right and leave the Circular Route, following the red and white signs only. A little ahead, you will cross two smaller roads while walking between farms, vegetable gardens and forests, and approaching Rogil. Before reaching this village, the trail will continue along a path parallel to the national road. After leaving Rogil, do not be intimidated by the 2 km of asphalt road ahead; afterwards, the path will turn to a dirt road going southwest.

The landscape will gradually change and transform to scrubland with plenty of gum rockrose – a sign that you are getting closer to the coast. After seeing the Espartal house overlooking the impressive valley of Ribeira de Aljezur, you will pass by a campsite, turn right and start a long descent crossing the road to Amoreira Beach.



### Fact Sheet

**Distance :** 19,5 km

**Approximate duration:** 6 h

**Accumulated climb:** 200 m

**Accumulated descent:** 200 m

**Difficult level:** Easy

**Max. / Min. altitude:** 110 m / 10 m

**Recommended season:** September till June

### Where to start?

**Odeceixe:** Largo 1º de Maio (main square in Odeceixe).

**Aljezur:** next to the market of Aljezur.

### IMPORTANT WARNINGS

Be careful when crossing the national road,

when leaving Odeceixe and entering Rogil. Be aware at the junctions with the Circular Routes, always follow the red and white markings.

### TIPS

**Refreshments along the way:** In Rogil, there are cafes, restaurants, lodgings and pharmacy.

