

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 is a pleasant and short day walk, which can be extended by following the Fishermen's Trail towards Arrifana or continuing south towards the villages of Bordeira and Carrapateira. You will cross perfumed valleys and small farms as you approach the coast, anticipating tomorrow's route.

From the top of the legendary castle of Aljezur, one of the seven that are represented in the flag of Portugal, the flat and fertile soils of the floodplains are home to the famous and incomparable sweet potato of Aljezur. The streams meander through these fields with their magnificent galleries of cottonwood, alders, ash, tamarisk, and willows. Man has lived respectfully and harmoniously with this natural world, strongly influenced by the change in seasons. As a result, we find an agricultural landscape rich in diversity, especially regarding plants, insects, birds, amphibians and mammals. In the spring, butterflies rival the flowers in the colorful explosion that occurs. Exiting the village you can take in the beauty of the stream running through the valley of Aljezur, extending to Amoreira Beach. Here you can imagine what Aljezur must have looked like in the fifteenth century, when all this valley was navigable, constituting the only port of shelter from the steep coast between Vila Nova de Milfontes and Sagres. Here, ships came from Lisbon, Flanders and Castile. Before reaching the coast, you will cross mountainous areas where eucalyptus predominates. The heavy planting of the eucalyptus is owed to the growing need for paper, and strips the region's forest of their original natural character. The eucalyptus diminishes biodiversity, above and below ground, consumes enormous amounts of water, contributes to soil erosion and leads to the depletion of mineral nutrients. When you spot the sea rising from the horizon, in a landscape swept by salty winds, where shrubs predominate, you can anticipate the arrival of the incomparable Arrifana Bay.

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





ALJEZUR » ARRIFANA

HISTORICAL WAY | 12 KM

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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Start by going up to the Municipal Museum and pass by the church, continuing walking down to the dirt road behind the village. If you have not visited the castle yet, take a detour and make sure not to leave Aljezur without enjoying the superb view over the village and the surrounding meadows. The path continues along the Amoreira valley, passing an old reconstructed farmhouse. From here, it begins to ascend and crosses a road that leads to Monte Clérigo. From the top, the view over Amoreira Beach and the village is inspiring. Continue walking straight for approximately 400 m. Here, the Historical Way will turn left, whereas the Fishermen's Trail will continue straight. Cross the valley, walking between eucalyptus trees and rockroses until you reach a wider path, and then turn left. After approximately 1 km, turn right and continue going straight until you reach a road.

Here, turn left again and continue walking for 250 m, before turning onto the first path on the right. After passing a few hills with houses scattered across them and another slope with ruins on it, the path will approach the ocean, leading through shrubs and pine trees. At the fork of the Historical Way, follow the path to the right, enjoying the panoramic view over hills and valleys. From here, you can already catch a glimpse of Arrifana Beach. Keep descending until you reach an asphalt road; then, continue walking along the left side of it until you see the outstanding Arrifana Bay. If you have energy left to continue, go for another 1 km to see the ruins of Fortress of Arrifana. From here, you will be able to fully appreciate the magnificent view of the place you have just arrived at.



Fact Sheet

Distance : 12 km

Approximate duration: 4 h

Accumulated climb: 250 m

Accumulated descent: 200 m

Difficult level: Easy

Max. / Min. altitude: 120 m / 10 m

Recommended season September till June

Where to start?

Aljezur: next to the market of Aljezur, following towards the Municipal Museum, where you must turn left.

Arrifana: next to the parking lot at the top of Arrifana Beach, following the asphalt road towards Aljezur, until you enter the dirt road on the right.

IMPORTANT WARNINGS

Along this route you will have to walk along and cross multiple times roads that may have traffic.

Walk with caution and always on the left side of the road

so that you stay visible for oncoming traffic.

Tips

Refreshments along the way: At km 5 at the junction along the road N1003, making a detour of 600 m on the right towards Vales

