

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 takes us to the historical center of the city with probably the highest historical cultural interest of the Alentejo Coast, passing by the Roman Ruins of Miróbriga. The castle, from the Islamic period, and the mother church, from the 13th century, are both national monuments.

The village was ruled by the Moor Kassem from the 8th to the 12th century, when it was taken over by troops loyal to King Afonso Henriques. It was later donated to the Order of Santiago de Espada. The medieval town of Santiago de Kassem acquired great importance in the 13th century, and received its first Formal Charter from King Dinis I, a monarch who donated the village and castle to Vetacia Lascaris, a Greek princess responsible for the education of his daughter Constança. After the death of Vetacia, in 1336, the village returned to the ownership of the Order of Santiago.







The quaint narrow streets are examples of common architecture of the time, but you can also find imposing manors from the time of the great feudal lords. Agriculture was based around wheat, fruits and cork, while livestock centered on horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, sheep, goats and swine. In the 19th century, the town was very prosperous. There were cork factories, sawmills and carpentries, mills, forges, workshops, ironmongers and sawmills. The village attracted lawyers, pharmacists, grocers and farm traders, and allowed cafes, cultural and recreational associations to flourish, such as Sociedade Harmonia, the oldest community in the country.

The first car in Portugal, a Panhard & Levassor, arrived to the city in 1895, imported from Paris by the 4th Count of Avillez. At the beginning of the 20th century, the widowed Countess Maria Carolina, initiated the creation of the Tapada gardens between the palace and the castle barbican wall, intending to combine a botanical garden with a park of romantic inspiration. The Condes' Tapada, which is now a public park, includes curious buildings such as St. Jorge's Chapel and a Tea House with a Neo-Manueline portal and a neo-Gothic greenhouse, which is now in ruins.

The route crosses the ruins of the Roman city of Miróbriga, abandoned in the 5th century AD.

These ruins include dwellings, a hippodrome, thermal baths, a forum, multiple temples and a bridge. Well-preserved Roman cities are not common in Portugal, which makes Miróbriga a special archaeological station. You can see the sophistication of the bath system, with public bathrooms each at different temperatures. The forum and the commercial area are also both well preserved, with several shops and a tavern.

RULES & RECOMMENDATIONS

-  Walk only along the marked 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 a 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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HISTORIC SANTIAGO

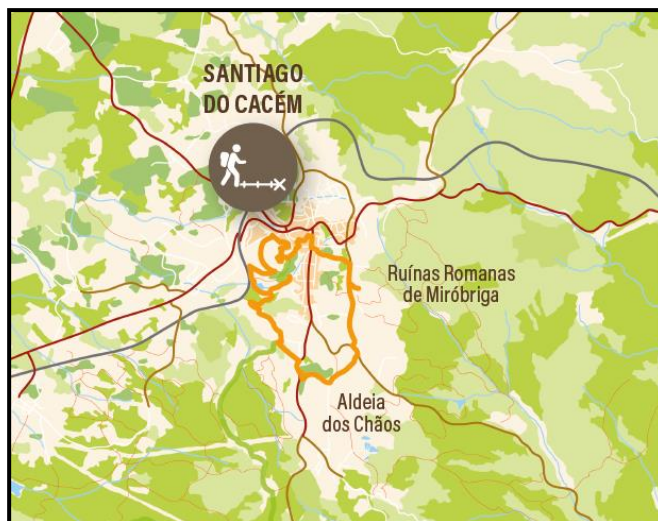
CIRCULAR ROUTE | 9 KM

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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Walk through the urban park at Rio da Figueira until you reach the Casa dos Escuteiros (scouts' house). Turn right, away from the Historical Way, by crossing a small dam. Just before the railway, exit the park by following a trail on the right, go up to Passeio das Romeirinhas and turn left. Next to the viewpoint, turn onto the second street on the right and explore the architectural heritage of Santiago do Cacém along your way. Walk past the Carreira Palace, Sociedade Harmonia, Misericórdia Church and the square with the pillory, until you reach the beautiful Mother Church. When you start descending to the center, the trail will follow the road for about 100 m along the Historical Way and then turn left towards the Municipal Garden, where you can enjoy a coffee and visit the Municipal Museum.

After walking through the garden, head south and turn left towards the Parish Council. Start ascending along an old path until you find Cumeadas Street, which will lead to the Roman Ruins of Miróbriga, a must-see experience during your journey. These ruins were a settlement during the Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age (6th and 7th centuries BC), inhabited until the 4th century AD. After passing the ruins, you will reach a roundabout. Turn left and before the old hippodrome, take a right turn onto a dirt road. After about 500 m, next to some satellite towers, turn right and keep walking until you arrive at the national road. Turn right again, and then turn left before the village of Bairro da Formiga, following a path that will take you through a pine forest and then join the Historical Way once more. Take a right and then a left turn, and, shortly before you reach the railway, pass through a small gate to your right that will lead you back to the Rio da Figueira Park.



FACT SHEET:

Distance: 9 km

Approximate duration: 3 h 30

Accumulated descent: 300 m

Difficulty level : Average

Max. / Min. Altitude 260 m / 150 m

Recommended direction clockwise

Recommended season September till June

WHERE TO START?

Santiago do Cacém: on the road of the urban park Ria da Figueira, next to the municipal swimming pools.

IMPORTANT WARNINGS:

Stay on the lookout for the white, red and yellow markings on the Circular Routes that run together with the Historical Way, as well as the signage marked with yellow and red for Circular Routes

TIPS:

Next to the mother church, take a stroll around the castle and visit the Tapada.

The Miróbriga Ruins visiting hours: from Tuesday to Sunday, 9 to 12 am and from 2 to 5.30pm, and closes on Mondays and holidays.

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

