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This is an ideal route for lovers of birdwatching. The dense woods of cork oaks, eucalyptus and arbutus trees bring the hiker to meet the tranquil waters of river Mira, on a perfect hike to experience in just half a day the essence of the Historical Way of Rota Vicentina.

Troviscais unveils the most authentic side of this magnificent coastal region. The route will enable you to come into contact with the locals, to see some economic activities linked to the land and the river, to get fantastic views over the river Mira and to discover the typical flora and fauna of the Mediterranean at its best, with such diverse habitats, such as undergrowths, cork oak and Portuguese oak forests, marshlands, reed beds, riverbanks and ponds, amongst many others.

At the stretch of the route along the river Mira, at Moinho das Moitas, it is worth taking a break in a discreet spot, with binoculars at the ready. Scanning the river, the reeds, the water tanks of the old mill and the rushes, you can observe a great diversity of birds, including some of the rarer migratory passerines such as the bluethroat, the grasshopper warbler, savi's warbler and spotted or aquatic warblers. In the floodplains and along the river, you may come across the droppings of one of the most fascinating animals of the Southwest, the otter.

On the drier slopes, where the dominant tree is the cork oak, there is an abundance of shrubs of the family Cistaceae, together with rosemary, oleaster or laurel. On the wetter and shadier slopes the dominant tree is the Portuguese oak and on the shrubby stratum white heather and fantastic specimens of arbutus bushes dominate.

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

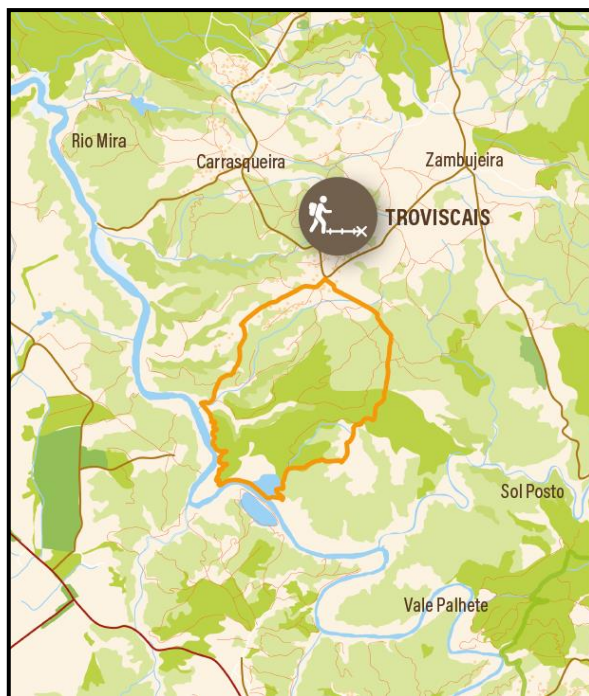
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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

This route starts by going towards the east. On your right side, there will be a small olive grove. Afterwards, the road ascends slightly, and cork oaks will start to dominate the scenery. At the crossroads, turn right and, about 200 m ahead, turn right once more. After reaching the top of a hill, you will enter a eucalyptus grove and start to descend for about 500 m, turning to your right before reaching a fence. At the next crossroads, turn left. The route will continue along the right side of the fence, with the views over the Mira River and the ever-present Alentejo hills. Afterwards, make a sharp turn of 90° to the right and begin to descend towards the Mira. The trail will lead along a straight, rarely used path through a dense wood with arbutus bushes almost as big as trees and other local species.

After reaching the river, you will pass by an oyster farm and a house on your left side. Carry straight on, with water tanks on your right side and the Mira River on the left. The straight path that begins further ahead between two ruins, leads so close along the river that it is impossible to continue without stopping and enjoying the surrounding beauty. At the end of the track next to the river, walk through a eucalyptus grove along the river. The track will continue along the river for about 1.7 km curving in and out and surprising with dazzling views of the Mira, until it starts descending to the floodplain via an old footpath, restored when the route was marked. At the floodplain, herds of cattle can often be observed. From here, turn left and continue walking towards the dyke. Afterwards, turn right, walking parallel to the river again until you arrive at a wider road. Turn right, and at the fork next to a ruin, start ascending along the track on your left. You will pass by two houses and about 20 minutes later, another one. Here, you will need to turn right. The village of Troviscais is not far.

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



FACT SHEET:

Distance: 11.5 km

Approximate duration: 4h

Accumulated descent: 250 m

Difficulty level : Average

Max. / Min. Altitude 120 m / 0 m

Recommended direction clockwise

Recommended season September till June

WHERE TO START?

Troviscais: by the cafe with the yellow awning. Take the dirt track in front of you, leaving the cafe in your back.

TIPS:

Refreshments along the way: Only in Troviscais village.

