










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®.

You will be passing the beaches of Alteirinhos, Carvalhal, Machados and Amália on the way to Azenha do Mar, where you will find a natural fishing harbour. To top it all enjoy one of the most outstanding views in the entire territory: Odeceixe Beach seen from the majestic Ponta em Branco.

Along this stretch of coast it is interesting to take a close look at the cliffs; note how the sedimentary rocks that were laid down horizontally over aeons have been folded and pushed out of all recognition so that what was once horizontal is now in some cases vertical. Now imagine the forces necessary! More recently was the formation of lithified sand tubes which can be seen a bit all over the trail.

On this section you will also find abundant signs of the presence of mammals, especially carnivores living among the dunes. It is hard to spot the animals themselves given that for the most part they are nocturnal, remaining in their burrows during daylight and only coming out to hunt at dark. But you will come across their droppings, footprints, burrows or maybe even the remains of their night's hunting. These carnivorous mammals include Egyptian mongoose (locally known as escalabardo), weasel, beech marten (also known as papalvo), badger, genet and otter. Rabbits are other mammals that build their burrows in the most stable of the sand dunes. These rabbits are the original stock of all rabbits worldwide, and incredibly important here, being the preferred prey of most carnivores.

RULES & RECOMMENDATIONS

-  The trails cross sensitive areas of the Southwest Alentejo and Vicentina Coast Natural Park. Maximum of 20 people per group.
-  Only for hikers. The circulation of vehicles on the dunes is prohibited.
-  It is forbidden to camp along the entire Fishermen's Trail. Look for authorized camping grounds.
-  Trail with some degree of difficulty are not recommended for people with vertigo or fear of heights.
-  The cliffs are in a constant process of erosion. Walking along them be careful of the danger of falling.
-  Respect Nature. Do not collect or disturb animals, plants or rocks.
-  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:

E: 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





ZAMBUJEIRA DO MAR » ODECEIXE

FISHERMAN`S TRAIL | 18.5 KM

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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

The trail starts next to the beautiful Chapel of Nossa Senhora do Mar, with a view over the famous Zambujeira do Mar Beach. Walk down to the beach and take the trail that goes up the cliffs towards Alteirinhos Beach, continuing south. Before reaching Carvalho Beach, the trail will turn inland, leading through pine forests and acacias, before arriving at the beach along a ridge of the ravine. From here, take the trail that starts behind the beach bar, and continue walking until you see Machado Beach. Take a deep breath – you are at the Alentejo coast, and the scenery here seems to come from paradise.

After passing Amália Beach (named after the Fado diva Amália Rodrigues, who had her house here), you will arrive at the village of Azenha do Mar, where we recommend that you take a break and have a snack. Afterwards, cross the wooden bridge and head in the direction of Ponta em Branco cliff, through scenery rich in dune vegetation and particularly surprising during the spring. With superb views of the ocean, the high point of this section is your arrival at Ponta em Branco – named after the colour of the sediments that form its summit. After descending to the beach, take the paved road parallel to the river, and continue walking until you reach the national road, leading to the village of Odeceixe.



FACT SHEET

Distance: 18,5 km

Approximate duration: 7 h

Accumulated climb: 300 m

Accumulated descent: 300 m

Difficulty level: Hard

Max. / Min. Altitude: 80 m / 0 m

Recommended season September to June

Where to start?

Zambujeira do Mar: at the Chapel of Nossa Senhora do Mar, towards the beach of the village.

Odeceixe: in the village main square, crossing the beach to Alentejo.

Important warnings

In the Lombo do Asno area, south of Alteirinhos Beach, the trail makes a small detour inland to circumvent a sensitive area. As a matter of security and environmental preservation, be aware and observe this divergence. We rely on your consideration!

Tips

Refreshments along the way: At km 6.5, the detour of 2 km to the village of Brejão is sign posted. At km 9.5 you'll go through the village of Azenha do Mar.

Shorten this section: Between the village of Odeceixe and the north end of the beach the trail goes along a road (4 km). Take a taxi and shorten this section.

Stay another night in Odeceixe: Consider staying longer in Odeceixe to take advantage of the Circular Routes existing in this area.

