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The trail between Aljezur and Arrifana passes by Monte Clérigo Beach and the mythical Ponta da Atalaia. In a land where one can breathe the legends and the time of Portugal's conquest of the Moors, this walk is an authentic journey through time.

On the narrow path along the coast, it is worth noticing to the dune vegetation, which includes aromatic shrubs (such as thyme, shrubby everlasting, rosemary, myrtle and lavender), medicinal and edible plants (such as wild asparagus, pink rockroses, vampirecups, Portuguese crowberry, Pterospartum tridentatum) and endemic and rare plants (such as Cistus palhinhae, Thymus camphoratus or Linaria ficalhoana).

Nature on this coast has always provided abundant resources for man. On this coast, you can see vestiges of Prehistoric human life. The occupants of this region are extensive and include Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans and Arabs. This route passes through the Ribat of Arrifana, an Islamic fortress-convent, occupied by warrior monks in the 12th century. This is the only know ribat in Portugal. It was founded by Ibn Qasí, political leader and spiritual guide of Sufism, a mystical form of Islam. It was a fortress convent, dedicated to prayer and watching over the coast.

One of the primordial inhabitants, and gastronomical obligations, of this coast that can still be found today is the goose barnacle. For those who visit the southwest coast, excluding the months between September to December, during the closed season, trying the goose barnacle is a must. The coast, rocky and beaten by the waves, provides the necessary habitat for this unique species. The goose barnacles live in the strip of coastline that is revealed during the empty-tide, the area that contains the most life, in rocks that receive strong and direct surf. This means that being a goose barnacles harvester is a risky and often times dangerous profession.

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:

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Download the [Rota Vicentina APP](#) and take it with you all the information about this route





ALJEZUR » ARRIFANA

FISHERMAN`S TRAIL | 17.5 KM

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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

While following the signs of the Historical Way, walk up to the Municipal Museum and go around the church. Then, descend to the dirt road at the back of the village. If you have not yet visited the castle, make sure to take a detour and don't leave Aljezur without enjoying the superb view over the village and its floodplain. The path then leads to the Amoreira Valley, past an old reconstructed farmhouse where it begins to ascend to meet the road to the village of Monte Clérigo. Shortly after, leave the Historical Way that will continue through the valley on the left, and continue along the road to the village of Espartal. Make a pause to enjoy the magnificent panorama – the view over the Amoreira valley and the village is truly inspiring. Once you arrive at Espartal, leave the road to the right and continue walking through an urban area. Afterwards, the trail continues along a sand path that heads straight until the parking lot on the south side of the Amoreira Beach. There you should turn left and then take a right onto the well-known "treme-treme" rock, then head south to Monte Clérigo. In the area next to the beach, enjoy a coffee or a lunch break. Walk through the village to the opposite side and then continue south. After crossing a long sandy section, you will arrive at the archeological site of Ribat da Arrifana. It is worth to go and enjoy the breathtaking look from the promontory at Ponta da Atalaia. The trail continues just a few meters inland from the parking lot on the right. After walking approximately 1 km to the south, the route will lead away from the coast. Here, a German plane crashed during World War II, shot down by the British troops. The trail will continue through pine trees until reaching a water line and crossing it. Continue walking south, before crossing another path and descending to the bottom of a valley. From here, the village of Arrifana can be seen constantly. Cross the river and go up towards Arrifana.



FACT SHEET

Distance: 17.5 km

Approximate duration: 6 h

Accumulated climb: 400 m

Accumulated descent: 350 m

Difficulty level: Average

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

Recommended season September to June

Where to start?

Aljezur: in the municipal market, then follow the Historical Way for about 3 km.

Arrifana: at the top of Arrifana beach.

Important warnings

The first part of this step (3 km) corresponds to

the Historic Path, marked only in white and red. From km 2.5 km to km 6, the trail goes along a road with some traffic, so be careful. As an alternative, you can start the hike in Espartal. Pay attention to the signage as there are intersections with several Circular Routes.

Tips

Refreshments along the way: After about 10 km, at Monte Clérigo Beach.

