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In this last stage within the Natural park, it is worth taking a pair of binoculars to observe the birds that appear along this path, especially if it is early in the morning. Looking out you can imagine the ancient attacks of pirates and corsairs, in land and at sea.

In the vegetation on the cliffs, a close look discovers wild orchids and lilies, dwarf palms and many aromatic plants, such as thyme, mastic tree or lavender. The trail crosses, in Boca do Rio, a permanent water course, a result of the confluence of several streams. North of this point you can find Lontreira Bog (Paul da Lontreira), which is worth exploring before continuing. It is a wetland with more than 100 hectares, dominated by reeds and narrowleaf cattail.










On the banks of the water lines the tamarisk predominates and in the humid floodplains, where paddie fields once existed, pastures and rushes now flourish. The otter is the emblematic species in Paul da Lontreira, but has nocturnal habits, so it is not easily seen. In the avifauna, the species to note are the common gallinule, Eurasian coot, common moorhen, snowy egret, purple heron, grey heron, zitting cisticola, Eurasian reed warbler, savi's warbler and Eurasian penduline tit (a rare species only observed in winter).

At the western end of the Boca do Rio Beach, you can recognise the remains of a Roman villa, which included fish salting workshops, a bathhouse, a residential area and a domestic service area. Mosaic-clad compartments and walls with painted stuccoes were found, which indicates the prosperity of this ancient settlement.

Less than 2 km from Boca do Rio, at the bottom of the sea, are the remains of L'Océan, a 60-meter-long ship that carried 80 cannons and 800 crew members. It was the admiral ship of a French fleet of 14 ships. During the Seven Years War it was sunk by the mighty British navy in the Battle of Lagos in August 1759.

In the seventeenth century, repeated attacks by pirates and privateers on fishing tackle led the then Governor and Captain General of the Algarve, D. Luís de Sousa, to have a fort built to defend the coast, just east from Boca do Rio beach. The pirates acted outside the law, attacking even the ships of their own country. The privateers, however, were granted the right by the state of seizing ships and looting villages from enemy states. Both reached their peak in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The fort of Almádena resisted the earthquake of 1755, but it was abandoned when the coast was no longer under threat. The last known uses of the fort took place in the Civil War (1832-1834) and in the 19th century for contraband surveillance on the coast.

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





SALEMA » LAGOS

FISHERMAN`S TRAIL | 12 KM

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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Start by walking up along Rua dos Pescadores. A few meters before a larger road, turn right onto an ascending path that leads to the ocean and Boca do Rio Beach. Afterwards, you will have to cross the stream by a wooden bridge and ascend towards the ocean again. From here, the trail turns left and leads to the Álmadena Fort. Proceed east, turn slightly inland to bypass a large house and start descending to Cabanas Velhas Beach. On the other side, climb up along the cliff. Here, the path turns a little away from the coast and heads towards the village of Burgau. Walk east along Rua da Fortaleza and over the cliffs, leaving the territory of the Southwest Alentejo and Vicentine Coast Natural Park. As you approach Luz, the signs of civilization will become more common; nevertheless, enjoy the wonderful sceneries that the trail provides.



FACT SHEET

Distance: 12 km

Approximate duration: 5 h

Accumulated climb: 400 m

Accumulated descent: 400 m

Difficulty level: Average

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

Reccomended season September to June

Where to start?

Salema: In Salema Beach.

Luz: In Luz Beach.

Tips

In Burgau, enjoy lunch or a coffee in the picturesque narrow streets and alleys.

