

**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®.**

**On the last section of this great coastal trail, bizarre cliffs of various colours hold the hiker's gaze - shades of ochre, red, gray, white, and black contrast with the bright blueness of the ocean. Our journey ends in the city of Lagos, from where - long before the tourists from all over the world came looking for sun and sand - the Portuguese set sail to discover the world.**

In the cliffs between Luz beach and Ponta da Piedade there is particularly rich information about the Middle Cretaceous period of the Earth's history, when the mass extinction of dinosaurs was impending. Between Luz Beach and Lagos Beach the rocks capture the walker's gaze and tell curious stories. While the gaze might wander to the immensity of the sea or to the aromatic green of the Mediterranean vegetation, it ultimately always ends up traveling back to the stones along the route. Between the contrast of the white of the limestone and the blackness of the volcanic rocks or between the organized geometry of the strata and the unexpected shapes sculpted by erosion or tectonic deformations, it is a striking landscape to take in.

To the west of Luz Beach, in Ponta da Calheta, layers of sandstone present fossils of a small marine snail - *Nerinea algarbiensis*. The cross-line design of these layers indicate marine currents and the position of the coastline more than 100 million years ago. Further down, the rocks subjected to the tide show an interesting network of fractures and cavities excavated within, known as giant's kettles. To the east of Luz










Beach, plant fossils are observed in layers of strongly colored sandstone. In the layers of limestone, the fossils present are of shells (bivalve and gastropods). Further east, at Ponta das Ferrarias, the dark rock between white cliffs corresponds to an old volcanic chimney. Volcanism here occurred 75 million years ago, when the Iberian

Peninsula hit Africa, in a rotation related to the movement of the plates.

In Ponta da Piedade, the Karst relief is impressive, forming arches, great rocks emerging from the water, and caves, and on a smaller scale, fine traces that draining water draws as it dissolves the limestone. On this rocky ledge, there was once a Roman temple, a Moorish temple, a

Christian hermitage, a fortification to protect Torrinha's fishing tackle, and even a lighthouse. The construction of the Lighthouse of Ponta da Piedade ended in 1913, after many incidents that prevented the advance of the project which began in 1883. In fact, to construct the lighthouse it was necessary to demolish what was left of the Hermitage of Nossa Senhora da Piedade, which many people strongly opposed.

## 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](http://rotavicentina.com)

## HELP US

For any further information or help regarding the Rota Vicentina, please contact us:

**E:** [info@rotavicentina.com](mailto: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





## LUZ » LAGOS

FISHERMAN`S TRAIL | 11 KM

**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®.**

### DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Head east, crossing Luz Beach along a small road that curves to the left and ascends leading through a residential neighborhood. Afterwards, keep walking straight (do not turn right), following the marked track that bends slightly to the left and ascends to a geodetic mark. Then, head towards the ocean and continue following the path along the cliffs until you reach Porto de Mós Beach. Look for the famous black rock in the middle of the white cliffs! On the other side of Porto de Mós beach, follow an ascending road for 400 m and turn right, walking through the neighborhood until you find the walkway that leads to Ponta da Piedade. Arriving there, pass by the lighthouse and enjoy the typical atmosphere of a tourist hotspot. Departing from Ponta da Piedade, first follow a path and then take the road leading to Dona Ana Beach. Between this beach and the city of Lagos, there is a small section where the trail still continues along the ocean, and then, joins a coastal road to Lagos. Pass the Fort of Ponta da Bandeira, staying on the coastal road; then, cross the bridge of Marina de Lagos – you will arrive at the train station.



#### FACT SHEET

**Distance:** 11 km

**Approximate duration:** 4 h

**Accumulated climb:** 300 m

**Accumulated descent:** 300 m

**Difficulty level:** Easy

**Max. / Min. Altitude:** 109 m / 10 m

**Recommended season** September to June

#### Where to start?

Luz: in Luz Beach.

Lagos: at the train station.

#### Tips

Lagos is a city with very active nightlife and a huge range of restaurants whose specialty is fish and seafood.

