



Environmental Centre of Xévara / Old post border

> Place of Interest

OLD BORDER POST / SMUGGLING

In almost every place in Alentejo we find stories and legends about smuggling. Praising or revisiting memories of a Portuguese and Spanish past of poverty, hunger and shortages, smuggling emerged as an ingenious solution to change arduous lives. The borders were controlled by the fiscal guard and the 'carabineros' who, hidden in the hostile forest of the region, surprised with bullets the smugglers on both sides of the border who ventured to engage in the dangerous mission of illegal trade, focused on coffee, an unroasted product on the Spanish side. 'Carabineros! Carabineros!' was the warning that echoed along the border.

PR1
CMR

WALKING PATH OF OUGUELA, THE BORDER GUARD



PATH NETWORK IN NATURE

> Highlights

NATURE: emphasis on the riparian galleries of the rivers Abrilongo and Xévara, with willows, ash and tamujo (*Flueggea tinctoria*) - an exclusive bush from Mediterranean watercourses of the southwest Iberian Peninsula - the perfect oasis for songbirds such as the nightingale (*Luscinia megharynchos*) and the melodious warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*). In the Xévara River lives the saramugo (*Anaecypris hispanica*), an endangered Iberian fish. In the traditional olive grove next to Ouguela we make special note of the stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*), the red kite (*Milvus milvus*) or the black-winged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*).

HERITAGE: castle (13th and 14th centuries) and bastion fort of Ouguela (17th century). Church of Ouguela. Santa Fountain (Ouguela).

HANDICRAFT: wrought iron; paper flowers; objects in card (plough, sickle, dishes); hand-painted clay ware.

GASTRONOMY: chickpea with meat; olive (Protected Designation of Origin). Sweets (*sericaia* with plums, *tosquiados*, crumpled cakes, nougat and tortillas with almond, chickpea and chila).

> Recommended season

This walking path can be done throughout the year. Nevertheless, users must be aware of high temperatures during the summer time. Caution is advised with the water levels during floods and longer periods of rainfall

> Trail signage

®FCMP

right way



wrong way



turn left



turn right



> Walking code

Follow sign-posted trails only. / Respect private property. / Avoid making unnecessary noise. / Do not disturb the animals. / Do not collect or damage plants or rocks. / Do not litter and leave no trace of your visit. / Do not light fire and do not throw cigarettes on the ground. / Be kind to local people. / Beware of cattle. Although gentle, they do not like strangers approaching their young. / Leave the gates as you found them. If they are closed, be sure they remain well shut.

> Useful contacts

Town Hall of Campo Maior: +351 268 680 300

Municipal Tourist Office: +351 268 689 367

SOS Emergency: 112

SOS Forest: 117

Medical Center: +351 268 699 700

Anti-Poisoning Information: +351 217 950 143

GNR (Republican National Guard): +351 268 680 390

Fire Department: +351 268 686 227

Village Hall of São João Baptista: +351 268 688 860

Promotor:



Walking path registered and approved by:



Partner institution:



Co-financing:



Walking path description



Castle of Ouguela. On top of a small hill, the old castle, later a fortress, keeps its vigilant attitude.

The little hamlet of Ouguela, its castle and fortress, which were added to it later, are at the beginning of this path. Viewing the landscape from the castle's patrol pathway may be the ideal preparation for this hike. But first, the Cistern and the Governor's House, in the interior of the castle, and the Fountain of Ouguela, on the outside, need to satisfy our curiosity, too.

We set off to the west where, camouflaged by the traditional olive grove, we come upon what was an advanced surveillance point for the fortress: the Watchtower of S. Pedro. Now, we go down this hill towards the banks of the Abrilongo River, where a long section of stepping stones helps us cross the river. Along the riparian gallery we follow the course of its waters to the point where they join and add to the flow of the Xévoira River. The ancient Roman bridge is now nothing but vestigial remains. But a new crossing allows us a visit to the Sanctuary of N. Sr.^a da Enxara.

Back at Ouguela, we pass through the Environmental Centre of Xévoira, whose facilities were once a frontier post to control the traffic of men and goods.



type of path

5.9 Km

distance

2.15^H

time

uphill
74 m

altitude variation

I
very easy
●○○○○

grading

270 m
▲
196 m

altitude max/min



gradient profile



The difficulty level is determined according to 4 different factors, each of which is assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 (from easiest to most difficult)

difficulty level



Ruins of the Roman bridge



Fountain of Ouguela



Caption

- Walking path
- - - Path intersection
- Asphalt road
- Watercourse

▶ Starting / Ending: Ouguela's Praça da República (GPS: 39°04'47, 11"N; 7°01'52, 81"W)

→ Recommended direction of the walking path: clockwise

Information on site

Landscape

Places of Interest

- 1 Geological contact
- 2 Fountain of Ouguela
- 3 Governor's house
- 4 Cistern
- 5 Watchtower of S. Pedro
- 6 Riparian gallery
- 7 Saramugo
- 8 Ruins of the Roman bridge
- 9 Sanctuary of N. Sr.^a da Enxara
- 10 Environmental Centre of Xévoira / Old post border



Campo Maior Special Protection Area

This is an area of almost 9600 ha of open and scattered *montado*, agricultural areas mainly for growing cereal crops, and where the Abrilongo and Xévoira rivers flow. It is a critical area for the conservation of steppe birds - great bustard (*Otis tarda*) and little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*), along with other bird species that deserve mention: black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), red kite (*Milvus milvus*) and black-winged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*). The area is important for the wintering of cranes (*Grus grus*).