

Sitemap



Habitat description

This route is inserted in a set of 3 observation routes to the Temporary Mediterranean Ponds in the municipality of Odemira. They are inserted in the Site of Community Importance of the Southwest Coast of Portugal, part of the Natura 2000 Network, the European Network of Natural Areas, and also in the Natural Park of the Southwest Alentejo and Costa Vicentina.

Mediterranean Temporary Ponds are temporary freshwater wetlands. They have water for a few months in the rainiest season and dry completely in summer. These wetlands are populated by a set of specialized plants and animals that dependent on the alternation between a time when the land is submerged or soaked in the rainiest months, and which dries up completely in the warmer months. When the ponds have water you can observe floating aquatic plants, such as the pond water crowfoot (*Ranunculus peltatus*) and amphibious plants that start to grow in water and bloom only when the soil is no longer submerged, one of the most emblematic being the lagoon-thistle (*Eryngium corniculatum*). There are also rare and protected plants such as a *Caropsis verticillato-inundata* or some endemic plants like *Hyacinthoides vicentina* (which has this name because it is original from the Costa Vicentina).

In addition to the very rich and diverse flora, a number of animals are associated with ponds, from a wide range of invertebrates to amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds. Among these we can highlight the large branchiopoda crustaceans like the tadpole shrimp (*Triops vicentinus*) or some fairy-shrimp species.

Habitat description

Several toads, frogs, tree frogs, salamanders and newts also inhabit ponds, either to breed or to feed. Many of these amphibians are dependent on these ponds at the beginning of their life cycle, in which they are exclusively aquatic, progressively developing their more terrestrial characteristics as the temporary ponds dry out between spring and summer. Among mammals, there is the presence of the Cabrera's vole, which is an endemic species of the Iberian Peninsula, threatened, and protected by European legislation. Among birds, it is common to observe in ponds: herons, white egrets, white storks, some species of ducks and grebes, or less frequently birds such as glossy ibis.

The habitat alternation also causes an alternation in the landscape throughout the year, which allows the observation of different scenes with the passing of seasons.

These routes contribute to a more sustainable tourism, with the demonstration of the added value of the conservation of priority habitats, the associated biodiversity and the Natura 2000 network - the European Network of Natural Areas.

Temporary Ponds:
A natural habitat to be protected!
Project LIFE Charcos - Conservation of Temporary Ponds in the Southwest Coast of Portugal

www.lifecharcos.lpn.pt

Circular walking route

PR6 ODM - Pousadas Velhas aos Charcos do Malhão

Visiting routes to the Mediterranean Temporary Ponds of the Southwest



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Route description

This circular route starts at the Interpretation Center of Mediterranean Temporary Ponds in the Southwest Alentejo, where the complex of ponds is located at the Pousada Velhas estate. At the Interpretation Center there is a small pedestrian path with a length of 600 meters, with walkways over ponds, accessible to people with reduced mobility and with interpretive panels on the biodiversity of this habitat.

Temporary ponds are part of this landscape classified as a Site of Community Importance on the Southwest Coast, of the Natura 2000 Network (European Network of Natural Areas).

From here we start to visit the temporary ponds of Malhão, where there is a complex with more than a dozen temporary ponds.

In these sandy lands extensive farming is practiced, with grazing cattle. At Pousadas Novas –Malhão, there is a forest patch with wild pines, eucalyptus and acacias, and a great diversity of scrub. In the dune valley, between the dunes and the forest, are the temporary ponds and their typical vegetation of more humid or seasonally flooded soils.

Along this route there is no type of tourist support. This route is interconnected with the route “PR7 - Porto das Barcas - Charcos do Malhão” which allows the addition of several itinerary alternatives with the junction of the two circular routes, or in a linear route to Porto das Barcas.

Route map



Datasheet

PR6 ODM - **Pousadas Velhas aos Charcos do Malhão**

Small route - Thematic circular route starting and arriving at the Interpretation Center of Mediterranean Temporary Ponds.

Extension: 6 km.

Municipality of Odemira and parish of Vila Nova de Milfontes

Access by road CM1072, next to the crossing of access to Praia do Malhão. Coordinates of the access path: Lat: 37.7664 ° Long: -8.781 °.

Starting point coordinates: Lat: 37.766° Long: -8.7815°

Accumulated slope: 30 meters.

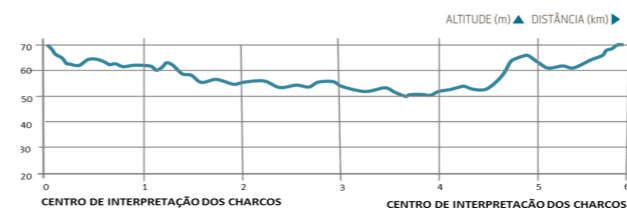
Maximum altitude: 70 m. **Minimum altitude:** 50 m.

Approximate duration: 3 hours

Degree of difficulty: Average (sandy floor with some difficulty in progressing on the ground)

Recommended season: all year round, preferably spring.

Route profile



Rules and recommendations

- Route to be made exclusively on foot.
- Circulate only on the signposted trails.
- The signage is intuitive to make the entire route autonomously in both directions..
- The circulation of motor vehicles puts walkers at risk. The circulation of vehicles in the dunes is prohibited.
- The biodiversity associated with Temporary Ponds is composed of endemic species, some uncommon, others rare. Do not collect or disturb animals or plants. Respect Nature.
- Be cautious with cattle. Although gentle, they don't like strangers approaching their calves.
- Respect private property; open and close gates and fences you find closed.
- Do not camp or start a fire outside the designated areas.
- Do not leave trash and help us collect what you find. There is no garbage collection point along the route.
- Route without toilet - take a bag and leave the track clean.
- Keep your dog on the leash and collect its waste.
- Be friendly with the locals.
- There aren't any support services along the route. Bring water and food supplies with you.

Route marking

The route is signposted in both directions with the marks of Small Routes, in yellow and red.



Right track



Wrong track



Turn left



Turn right