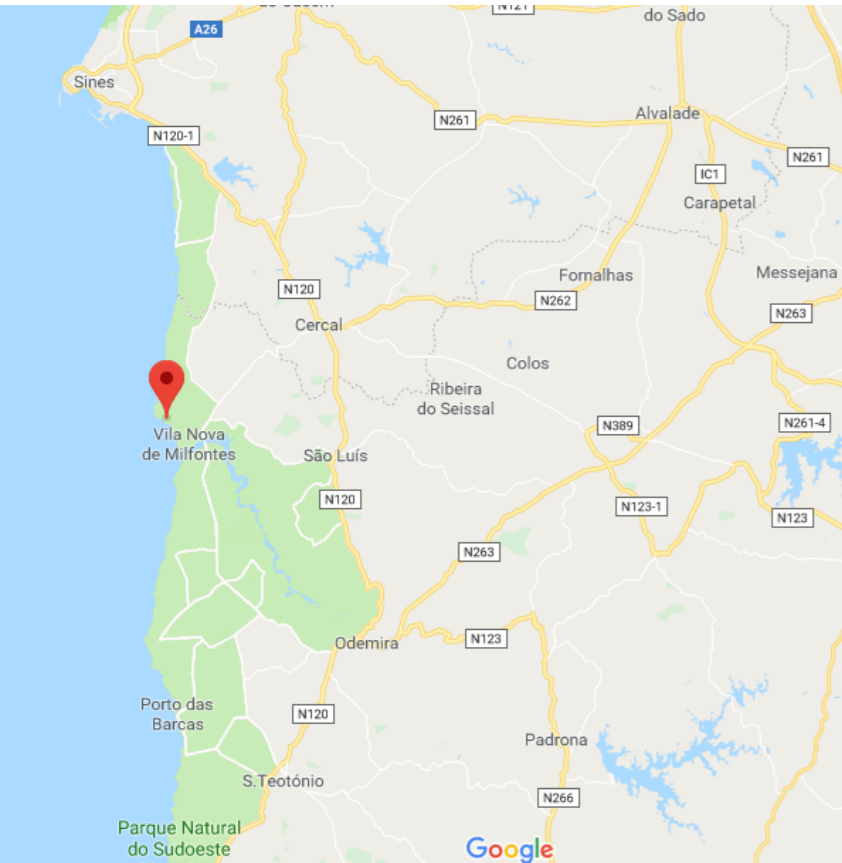


Sitemap



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

PR7 ODM — Porto das Barcas aos Charcos do Malhão

Visiting routes to the Mediterranean Temporary Ponds of the Southwest



LIFE12 NAT/PT/000997 Financial contribution of the Programme LIFE by the EU (75%)



Route description

This small circular route, with 6.5 km in length, suggests a visit to the temporary ponds located in the Malhão dunes, beginning and ending in Porto das Barcas.

The route starts at Porto das Barcas, a fishing port north of Vila Nova de Milfontes, also known as Ponta das Barcas. The starting point is in the parking lot of the view-point over the fishing port, in front of the restaurant “Porto das Barcas”. From here, you can visit the temporary ponds of Malhão, at Herdade de Pousadas Novas, where there is a complex with more than a dozen temporary ponds, and where you can enjoy the landscape between the humid valley, the dunes and the cliffs near the sea.

The visit route to the Malhão ponds consists of two Small Circular Routes (PR6 and PR7), between Porto das Barcas and the Interpretation Center of Temporary Ponds in the Southwest Alentejo. These two routes can be added, which allows the walker to choose between several itinerary alternatives.

Part of this Small Route, coincides with the Fishermen's Trail of Rota Vicentina along the cliff by the sea. In this section you walk on the top of cliffs, not recommended for people with vertigo or fear of heights.



Route map



Datasheet

PR7 ODM - **Porto das Barcas aos Charcos do Malhão**

Small route - Thematic circular route starting and arriving at Porto das Barcas

Extension: 6,5 km.

Municipality of Odemira and **parish** of Vila Nova de Milfontes.

Access by road CM1099 (Estrada do Canal) the route starts next to the access to the fishing harbour.

Starting point coordinates: Lat: 37.7378° Long: -8.8005°

Accumulated slope of 75 meters.

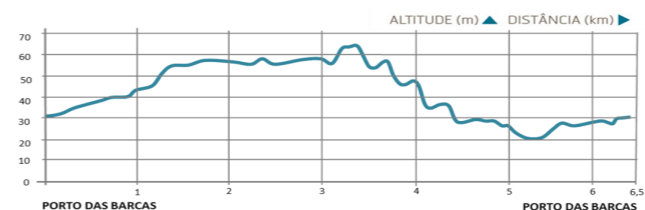
Maximum altitude: 65 m. **Minimum altitude:** 20 m.

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