



Nogueira's watermill

PR7  
NIS

## AMONG WATERMILLS



PATH NETWORK IN NATURE

### > Places of Interest

#### HERMITAGE OF N. SR.ª DOS REMÉDIOS

Together with the bullfights, the feast of N. Sr.ª dos Remédios, which takes place on 8 September, is one of the main cultural events of Montalvão. Not far from this hermitage, next to the road linking the village to the Spanish town of Cedillo, there is a dolmen, a common monument in these parts.

### > Highlights

**NATURE:** on the Portuguese side, on the hills around the Sever River, once used for raising wheat where cows and sheep used to graze, the holm and cork oaks remain, to which was added a dense eucalyptus forest, an indication of the abandonment of these lands. Down here, the river banks are filled with ash trees, poplars and reeds, while along the dirt roads the rockrose, the broom, the strawberry tree, the myrtle and the wild olive are common.

**HERITAGE:** Montalvão: Castle (probably from the reign of D. Dinis); Parish Church (13th – 14th centuries); Church of Misericórdia; Chapel of S. Pedro; Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

**HANDICRAFT:** stoned pottery; embroidery and stitched from Nisa; bobbin lace; tatting; felt appliquéés and pulled thread hems.

**GASTRONOMY:** *cachola* rice from Alpalhão; *febras da matança*; *sarapatel* soup; *afogado* soup; potato crumbs; *papa ratos*; *maranhos*; *pezinhos* with tomato sauce; *feijões das festas*; lamprey rice; river fish soup. Sweets (*cavacas*, *dormidos cakes*, *esquecidos*, *nisas*, *barquinhos*). *Mestiço* cheese from Tolosa (Protected Geographical Indication); Nisa cheese (Protected Origin Designation); sausages from Alpalhão.

### > Recommended season

This walking path can be done throughout the year. Nevertheless, users must be aware of high temperatures during summer time and some slippery points during winter and rainy days.

### > 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 Nisa: +351 - 245 410 000
- Nisa Tourist Office: +351 - 245 410 000 - extension 353
- SOS Emergency: 112
- SOS Forest: 117
- Medical Center: +351 - 245 410 160
- Anti-Poisoning Information: +351 - 217 950 143
- GNR (Republican National Guard): +351 - 245 410 116
- Fire Department: +351 - 245 412 303
- Village Hall of Montalvão: +351 - 245 743 132



### > Trail signage

® FCMP

right way



wrong way



turn left



turn right



Promotor:



Walking path registered and approved by:



Partner institution:

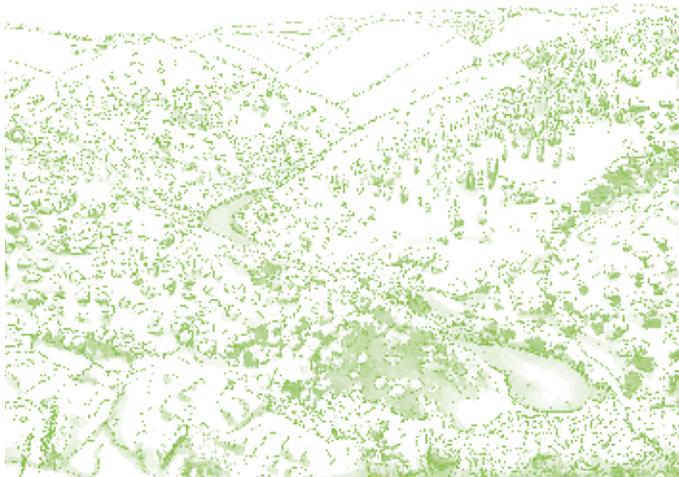


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## > Walking path description



**Sever River.** Rising in the Serra de São Mamede, two-thirds of its course forms the boundary between Portugal and Spain.

The walking path begins in Montalvão, a village whose white houses stand out on the top of an isolated hill in the landscape. After a visit to the castle, the parish church and the historic area, follow the paved road that leads to the slopes of the Sever River, passing next to the village cemetery and the ruins of the Chapel of Santa Margarida. Having gone through Ferreira's threshing-floor, use well-worn trails between eucalyptus trees and some pines, once trodden by farmers and smugglers. Further down, you come to the banks of the river, hidden in the dense forest, in an area of steep slopes where water fountains and springs abound. Once you come to the water's edge, a spot ideal for sport fishing, you find Nogueira's watermill, now submerged. With Spain on the other side, the path follows a dirt trail along the river, headed north, until Artur's watermill, also covered by water, a favourite place to eat lunch, with water springs and a small shelter in schist. Abandoning the riverside, you begin a steep climb through a eucalyptus plantation. Higher up, the landscape of cork oak forest marks the return to Montalvão over dirt roads, between walls and ruins in schist.



circular

type of path

7.5<sup>Km</sup>

distance

2.30<sup>H</sup>

time



235<sup>m</sup>

altitude variation

II  
easy

●●○○○

grading

334<sup>m</sup>  
▲  
127<sup>m</sup>

altitude max / min





2



2



2



2

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



- ### > Places of Interest
- ① Chapel of Santa Margarida (ruins)
  - ② Viewpoint
  - ③ Resting area
  - ④ Nogueira's watermill
  - ⑤ Resting area
  - ⑥ Artur's watermill
  - ⑦ Shelter in schist

**São Mamede Special Area of Conservation**

There are 116.114ha of great diversity of habitats, some of them priorities. The geomorphology and microclimate favour the southern limit of distribution for many species and plant communities of more Atlantic preferences, as occurs on the northern and western slopes, where the presence of the Pyrenean oak (*Quercus pyrenaica*) stands out. The regions facing the east, further south, have more Mediterranean influence and hence are the domain of the cork oak and holm oak. This Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has important watercourses related to the conservation of the saramugo (*Anaocypris hispanica*) and the rare and threatened river-mussel (*Unio crassus*). Here also is the most important cave in the country and one of the most important in Europe that serves as a shelter for breeding and hibernation of colonies of several species of bats.

**Caption**

- Walking path
- Asphalt road
- Watercourse
- Recommended direction of the walking path: clockwise

**Starting/Ending:** next to the Parish Church of Montalvão (GPS: 39°35'44, 15°N; 7°31'38, 10°W)

 Restaurant  
 ATM

 Pharmacy  
 Market

 Landscape