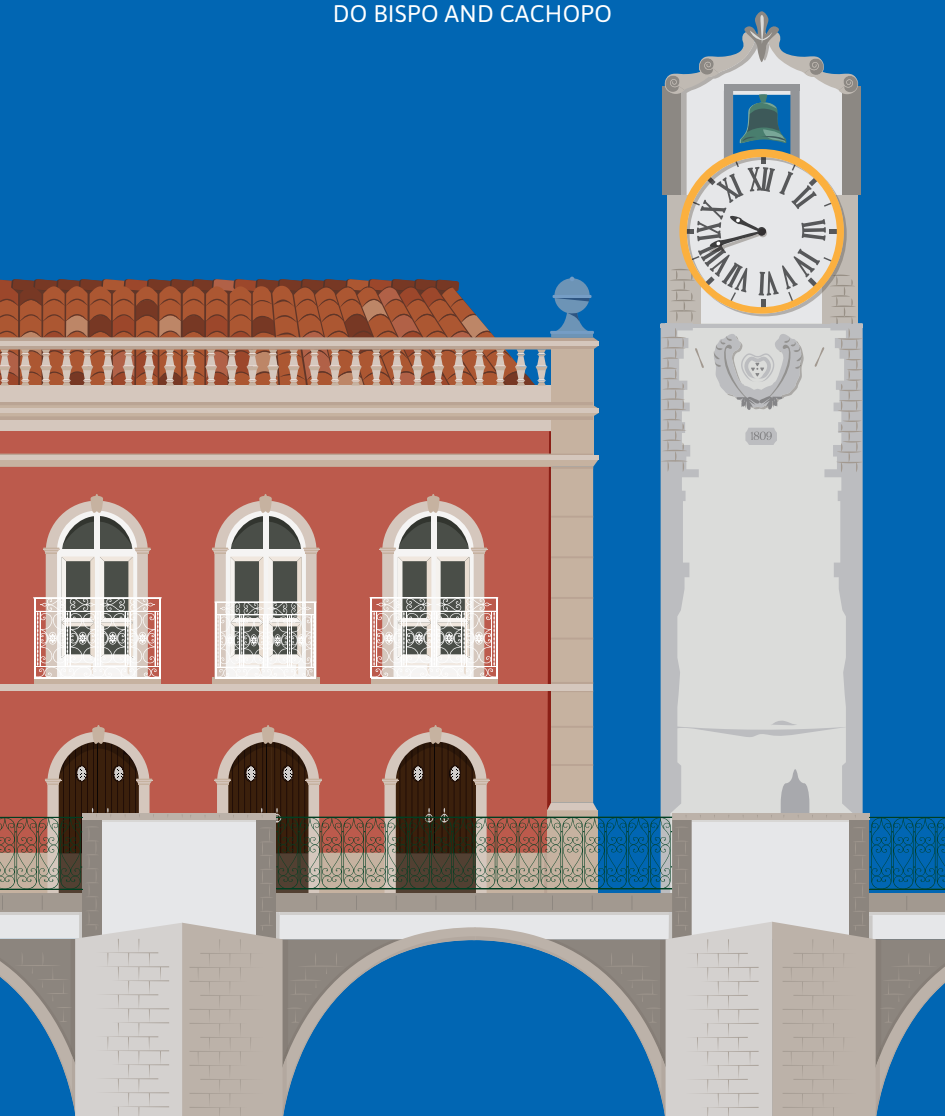


# Discovering Tavira Guide

TAVIRA, SANTA LUZIA, LUZ DE TAVIRA,  
CABANAS, CONCEIÇÃO, SANTO ESTEVÃO,  
SANTA CATARINA DA FONTE  
DO BISPO AND CACHOPO



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# Discovering Tavira Guide

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# Introduction

The municipality of Tavira covers an area of 607 km<sup>2</sup>, 80% of which is made up of serra (uplands) and *barrocal* (a transitional area between the uplands and the sea). Along the coast, soft sandy beaches stretch for a distance of 18 kilometres in the heart of the Ria Formosa Nature Park, a protected area of considerable environmental value. Carob, almond and strawberry trees, along with citrus orchards, bring colour to the scenery of the barrocal and the uplands. Traditionally-styled houses, haylofts, wood-burning ovens and mills complete the panorama.

Tavira's history dates far back into the mists of time. The excavations carried out at the "genetic hill" reveal the presence of Phoenicians and other ancient peoples. The Muslim occupation also left its marks on the agriculture, culture and urbanism of the city. Due to its strategic importance, Tavira was the primary commercial port and population centre in the Algarve in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It received its city charter in 1520. Tavira is a city with a multitude of churches, convents and chapels, many charming nooks and crannies,

and the river Gilão/Séqua; here you can drift gently back in time while enjoying the delightful climate.

This is a city with a vast heritage. It is essential that its traditions are valued and passed on. The Mediterranean influence can be seen in the climate, the economy, the culture and the characteristic lifestyle of the Mediterranean Diet – classed as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2013.

Today, Tavira is replete with history and the signs of its long-standing settlement by people, so the opportunity to discover one of the region's finest cities is an invitation that nobody would want to turn down.

Learn about our history, culture, scenery, heritage and very characteristic lifestyle. Take the opportunity to enjoy your stay and explore the routes we have created for you!

Please note: in addition to the suggested routes, which are available for mp3 and mp4, you can also discover all that Tavira has to offer with the help of tourism recreation agents who organise outings and activities to suit every taste.

**More information:** [www.cm-tavira.pt](http://www.cm-tavira.pt)



## Before you set off, we have some advice and suggestions for you

### Equipment and clothing to consider taking

- Hat, sunglasses, sun cream, and appropriate footwear and clothing.
- A basic first aid kit, compass, GPS, penknife, torch, mobile phone (although the mobile communication network does not cover all parts of the interior) and the guide to trails.
- Camera, binoculars and/or a magnifying glass.
- Water, snacks, energy bars.

### Other advice

- Find out what the weather forecast is.
- Check your departure time and confirm that you can complete the trail before it gets dark.
- For trails that go through areas where hunting is permitted, make sure you know when the hunting season is  
(for information, contact <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/caca>)
- Never go out alone and always stick to the signposted trails.
- When going through inhabited and agricultural areas, respect people's customs, traditions and property.
- Respect the rules which are in force in protected areas.
- For your safety, never walk on the dunes.
- Do not gather plants or rocks, and do not disturb animals. If you suddenly come face-to-face with an animal, do not run; just keep walking.
- Do not light fires.
- Do not leave any kind of rubbish behind. Take it with you and leave it where there is a rubbish collection service.



# Vila a dentro Around the Inner Town

ROUTE

- 1 Praça da República
- 2 Paços do Concelho / Town Hall
- 3 Islamic Museum
- 4 D. Manuel I Door
- 5 Church of Misericórdia
- 6 Phoenician wall
- 7 Palácio da Galeria / Municipal Museum
- 8 Tavira Castle
- 9 Church of Santa Maria do Castelo
- 10 Old Convent of Nossa Senhora da Graça
- 11 Porta de reixa (traditional wooden lattice door)
- 12 Old military hospital
- 13 Main Church of Santiago
- 14 Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Consolação
- 15 Irene Rolo House
- 16 Mansions
- 17 Casa Fotografia Andrade / Andrade Photography House
- 18 Building designed by Manuel Gomes da Costa
- 19 Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Piedade
- 20 Tavira Water Supply Interpretation Centre
- 21 Bairro 1° de Maio
- 22 Defensive wall

Route covering approximately: 1,3 km





## Vila a Dentro / Around the Inner Town

The starting point for this exploration begins at the **1 Praça da República**, with the River Gilão and the old bridge as backdrop. This square is where you will find the **2 Paços do Concelho** or Town Hall. On the *façade*, you can see the city's coat of arms and, on the right-hand corner, according to tradition, the sculpted face of D. Paio Peres Correia. Standing proudly at the centre of the square is a monument that pays tribute to those who fought in the First World War. Opposite Tavira's town hall building, you will find the Tourist Information Office and the **3 Islamic Museum**. This latter gives you an opportunity to see a significant section of the Islamic wall that used to protect the citadel, as well as a variety of artefacts, such as the distaff handle, a thirteenth-century ink bottle, an eight-handled cooking pot and the "Tavira Vase".

After visiting the centre's exhibits, turn right, go up the stairs, pass by the **4 D. Manuel I Door** and go inside the inner town, or "Vila a Dentro" as it is called in Portuguese. Here you will find a vast cultural heritage that bears witness to Tavira's past importance, as well as the headquarters of some cultural associations that promote cultural and artistic activities. This door is thought to have been made or remodelled during the reign of D. Manuel I (1495-1521), to create an access route to the then Praça da Ribeira. On the upper part, you can see the royal coat of arms and the armillary spheres, symbols of King D. Manuel I, *the Fortunate*. Standing opposite is the **5 Church of Misericórdia** (Mercy). Dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and classed as a building of public interest, it is considered to

**Islamic Museum**  
 📍 Praça da República  
 ☎ +351 281 320 570  
 ⌚ Check the opening times here  
<http://museumunicipal-detavira.cm-tavira.pt>



Tavira Vase

**Church of Misericórdia**  
 📍 Rua da Galeria  
 ☎ +351 289 247 120  
 ⌚ Check the opening times here  
[www.facebook.com/igrejadamisericordia](http://www.facebook.com/igrejadamisericordia)

Façade of Church of Misericórdia (right)







be the most valuable example of Renaissance architecture in the Algarve. Admire the façade created by master stonemason André Pilarte (completed in 1551) where the Renaissance portico with its round arch is particularly noteworthy. Atop the arch is an image of Our Lady of Misericórdia, with the apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul at her side, along with the royal and city arms. Of particular note inside are the retables in gilt carving and the eighteenth-century blue-and-white tile panels, depicting the Misericórdia's fourteen works. Before going up the Rua da Galeria and visiting the church, you can admire a section of the **6 Phoenician wall**, on the left-hand side of the Largo da Misericórdia square, on the Calçada D. Paio Peres Correia. Make your way back to the square and go up the Rua da Galeria to visit the church. Afterwards, continue on to the **7 Palácio da Galeria** (Galeria Palace), which dates originally from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and was remodelled in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Admire the Baroque stonework of the door and upper-floor windows of Tavira's most noteworthy building of public interest, which now serves as the Municipal Museum. Go inside and visit the palace and its exhibits.

After this visit, go up the road towards Largo Abu Otmane square, where you can see the clock tower of the Church of Santa Maria do Castelo (Saint Mary of the Castle). The entrance to **8 Tavira castle** is located on the left-hand side



Side retable of the Church of Misericórdia

📍 **Palácio da Galeria / Municipal Museum**  
 🏠 Calçada da Galeria  
 ☎ +351 281 320 540  
 ⌚ Check the opening times here  
<http://museumunicipaldetavira.cm-tavira.pt>

Cloisters of the Palácio da Galeria (Galeria Palace) (left)

The octagonal tower of Tavira Castle and some hipped roofs (below)



of this same square and this was the starting point for the city walls to be built. Once inside the castle with its pretty garden, climb to the top of the octagonal tower for a splendid panoramic view over Tavira. Highlights include the hipped roofs, traditionally known as “scissor roofs”, the cupolas of various churches, the river and the salt pans in the distance. This is good place to pause for a short rest.

On the way out of the castle you will find the **9 Church of Santa Maria do Castelo** (Saint Mary of the Castle), which is thought to have been built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, above the old and main Muslim mosque, after the Order of Santiago recaptured Tavira from the Moors. This church was rebuilt by Italian architect Francisco Fabri, after the 1755 earthquake. Before you go inside, take a look at the *Stations of the Cross*, carved in stone and inscribed on the outer walls. Admire the Gothic portico on the main façade. On the right-hand side of the chancel, you can see the tomb of the



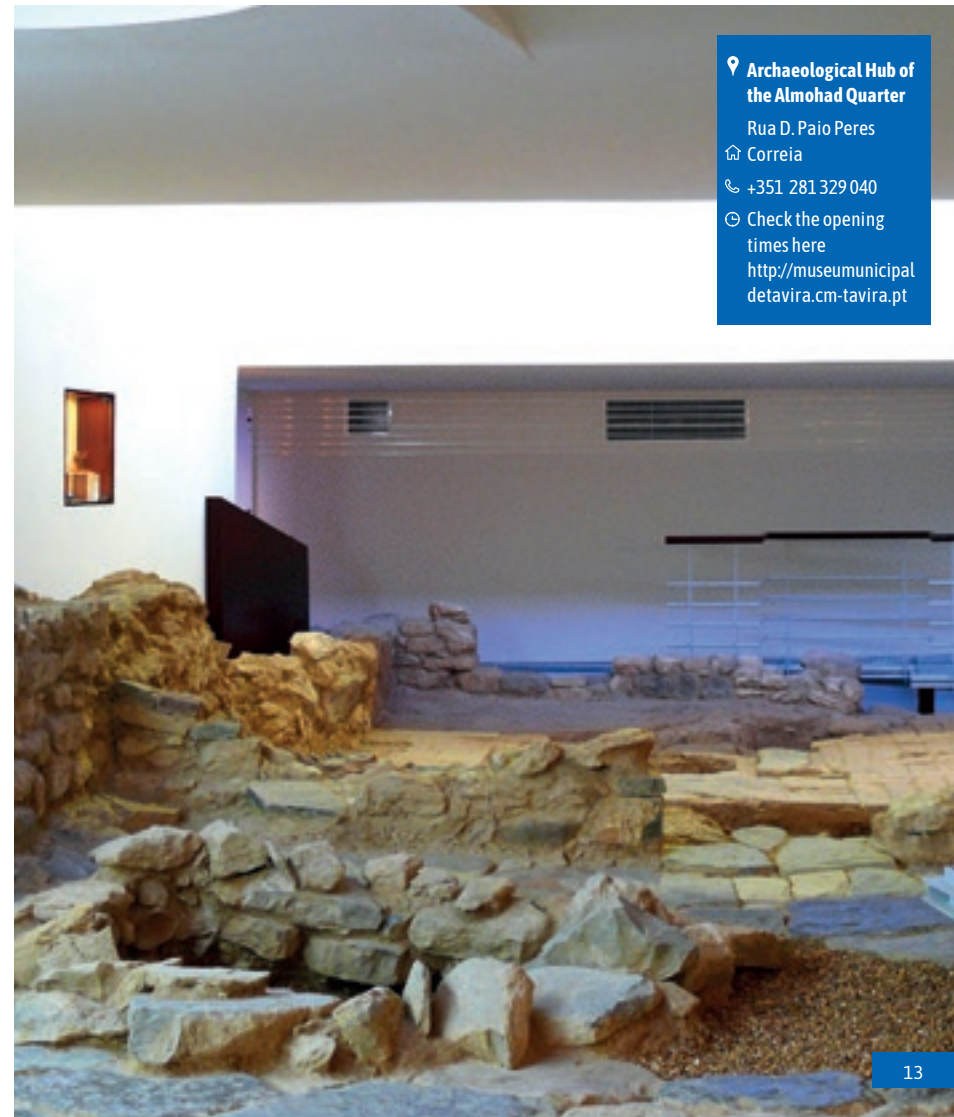
Tomb of the seven knights martyred in the conquest of Tavira

seven knights who fell during the conquest of the city and, on the left, the tomb of D. Paio Peres Correia, master of the Order of Santiago at the time the city was recaptured. The church also houses a sacred art collection.

On the way out of the church and heading towards Largo Dr. Jorge Correia square, you will

come across the old **10 Convent of Nossa Senhora da Graça** (Our Lady of Grace), founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and recently reconverted for use as a historical pousada. Inside, you can see an archaeological collection comprising vestiges of Almohad earthenware from the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries, an important sign of urbanism during Portugal’s Islamic period.

Almohad Quarter (below)



**Archaeological Hub of the Almohad Quarter**  
Rua D. Paio Peres  
Correia  
+351 281 329 040  
Check the opening times here  
<http://museumunicipaldetavira.cm-tavira.pt>





Next, turn right and head towards the square called Largo das Portas do Postigo, where you can see a **11 porta de reixa** (traditional wooden lattice door) on Rua das Olarias. If you keep going along this road to the end, you will find the **12 Old military hospital** (now the military mess), on the left-hand side. It was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Go back to the pousada and then down Rua D. Paio Peres Correia and admire the **13 Main Church of Santiago** (Saint James) on the left-hand side. It is believed to have been built on the site of the smaller mosque, in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake, the church contains carvings, paintings and sacred art images.



*Porta de reixa. Traditional wooden lattice door*



*St James on horseback fighting the Moors (painting in the Main Church of Santiago)*

At the end of Rua D. Paio Peres Correia, you will arrive at one of the city's main roads, the Rua da Liberdade. On the left is the post office building and, standing opposite, you will see the **14 Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Consolação** (Our Lady of Consolation), which dates back to 1648, when the brotherhood of Nossa Senhora da Consolação dos Presos was founded. This brotherhood had one specific aim: to provide moral and spiritual

*Rua da Liberdade (left)*



Manueline door of the Irene Rolo House

support for the inmates (presos) of the city's old prison, which was situated in what is now the post office building. Go down the Rua da Liberdade and, on the left, after the stairway leading to the castle, you will find the **15 Irene Rolo House** (door numbers 60 to 64). Here you can admire the Manueline door on the ground floor and a third-floor window thought to be one of the first examples of Renaissance architecture in Tavira. Farther along, you will see some houses that look rather like **16 palaces** and, at number 36, you can visit the **17 Casa Fotografia Andrade** (*Andrade Photography House*) where there is an exhibition portraying the evolution of photography, Tavira and the people of Tavira over the course of 120 years. Next, at numbers 30 and 32, you will come to a **18 building with Modern Movement** features, which became widespread in the Algarve in the 1950s and 1960s, designed by architect Manuel Gomes da Costa. Back again at the Praça da República, and it's time to enjoy a traditional sweet treat, have a drink, rest and admire your surroundings.

From here, head towards the old bridge but, before you reach it, turn right into Rua Gonçalo Velho, where you will find a square that, according to the records, was the main entrance into the walled city "Porta da Vila" until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Here you will find the **19 Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Piedade** (Our Lady of Piety) and the **20 Tavira Water Supply Interpretation Centre**, where you can learn a bit more about the city's history. Continue along Rua dos Pelames until you reach the **21 bairro 1.º de Maio** (also known as Bela Fria neighbourhood); go in and admire one of the sections of **22 defensive wall** (barbican).

Tavira Water Supply Interpretation Centre (right)



📍 **Tavira Water Supply Interpretation Centre**  
 🏠 Rua dos Pelames  
 ☎ +351 281 320 540  
 🕒 Check the opening times here  
<http://museumunicipaldetavira.cm-tavira.pt>





# After the Bridge

ROUTE

PAGE 20

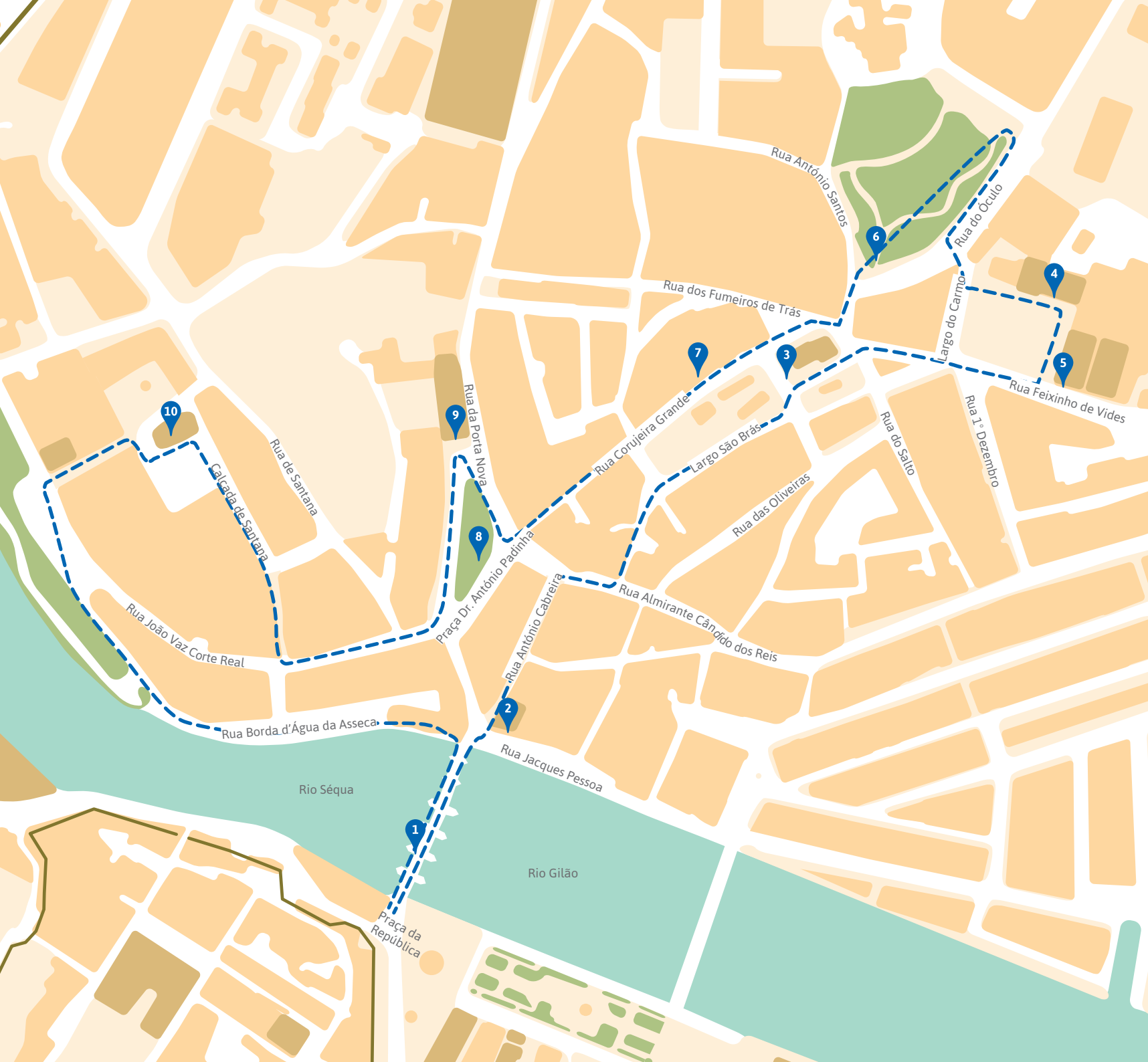
- 1 Old bridge
- 2 Municipal Archive
- 3 Chapel of São Brás
- 4 Church of the Ordem Terceira de Nossa Senhora do Carmo
- 5 Tavira Ciência Viva (Living Science) Centre
- 6 Parque da Água (Waterpark) Garden

PAGE 23

- 7 Manueline stonework
- 8 Alagoa Garden
- 9 Church of Nossa Senhora da Ajuda or of São Paulo
- 10 Chapel of Santa Ana

Route covering approximately: 1,8 km





## After the Bridge

Leaving the Praça da República, cross the **1 old bridge** over the River Gilão; the bridge has been changed over the course of time but has had its present-day appearance since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. After the great floods of 1989, the bridge became fully pedestrianised. Take a look at the houses adorned with wrought iron fences and hipped roofs standing alongside the river.



### Mansions

Keep going along Rua Dr. António Cabreira. The first building on the right houses the **2 Municipal Archive**, and was given to the municipal council by mathematician and astronomer Dr António Cabreira. At the end of this street turn right onto Rua Almirante Cândido dos Reis and soon after, onto the first road on the left (Rua da Corujeira Pequena) until you arrive at a garden. In this square, you spot the **3 Chapel of São Brás** (Saint Blaise) of late medieval origin and rebuilt in the third quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Walk around the right-hand side of the church and go to the Largo do Carmo. There you will find the **4 Church of the Ordem Terceira de Nossa Senhora do Carmo** (Third Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel). This began to be built in 1745 and is decorated in a late baroque style. The interior is an example of rococo splendour with beautiful gilded and polychromatic wood carvings.

Roof of the Church of the Ordem Terceira de Nossa Senhora do Carmo (right)







When you leave the church, to your left you will see the old Carmo Convent where the **5 Tavira Ciência Viva (Living Science) Centre** is based; it runs activities relating to water and energy. Besides visiting the exhibition, centre visitors can participate in experimental activities or take tours.

Before returning to the Chapel of São Brás (Saint Blaise), turn right on the Largo do Carmo until you come to the Rua do Óculo, where you find the **6 Parque da Água (Waterpark) Garden**. Here you can try some of the water-based activities and apparatus for free, discover some native species and relax a little. It is, without doubt, a lovely place for children.

After this visit, carry on in the direction of the Chapel of São Brás (Saint Blaise), on your way to Rua da Corujeira Grande. Along the way, at number 24, you can see a small house with **7 Manueline stonework**. After going down Rua da Corujeira Grande, stop and look to the right. Here you will see the **8 Alagoa Garden** and the **9 Church of Nossa Senhora da Ajuda or of São Paulo** (Our Lady of Good Aid or of Saint Paul). Dating from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was originally part of the Order of Saint Paul the First Hermit. Constructed in the shape of a Latin cross, the church is an example of Portuguese chã (plain) architecture.

As you leave the church, walk through the garden and carry on until you arrive at Rua João Vaz Corte Real on your right. Continue along this road and take the second turning on the right onto the Calçada de Sant'Anna, where the **10 Chapel of Santa Ana** (Saint Anne) can be found. Of medieval origin,

Façade of the Tavira  
Ciência Viva (Living  
Science) Centre

📍 **Tavira Ciência Viva  
(Living Science)  
Centre**

🏠 Rua Freixinho  
de Vides 21-22

☎ +351 281 326 231

🕒 Check the opening  
times here  
[www.cvtavira.pt](http://www.cvtavira.pt)

The bell tower of the  
Chapel of Santa Ana



📍 **Chapel of Santa Ana**  
🏠 Largo de Santa Ana  
☎ +351 281 320 540  
🕒 Check the opening times here  
<http://museumunicipal-detavira.cm-tavira.pt>

this church was rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as the date inscribed on the bell tower (1727) appears to confirm. Inside there are carvings, sculptures and paintings. From the viewpoint beside the church you can admire the magnificent panoramic view over the river and the city. The church served as a private chapel for the Governor of the Algarve, transferred here after the destruction of the city of Lagos in the 1755 earthquake.

Professor Bartolomeu Cid dos Santos Steps (right)

On the right descend the steps named Escadinhas Prof. Bartolomeu Cid dos Santos (visual artist) until you return to Rua João Vaz de Corte Real. On the right you will find the Tavira House of Arts with the Lagar-Museu (a museum housed in a former olive-pressing facility), which runs cultural initiatives, especially in the summer, notably including contemporary art exhibitions.

If you have children and like extreme sports, we invite you to visit the skate park, located about 200 metres past the Santiago Bridge. If you wish to return to the start of the tour, cross the car park and carry on, southwards along the riverbank. Continue along Rua Borda d'Água da Assêca and, at the end, you will find the old bridge where you started on your right-hand side.

View from Alto de Santa Ana







# Before the bridge

ROUTE

- PAGE 28
- 1 Praça da República
  - 2 Manueline door
  - 3 Raul Lino buildings
  - 4 Church of São José do Hospital
  - 5 São Francisco Garden
- PAGE 31
- 6 Church of the old convent of São Francisco
  - 7 Atalaia Barracks
  - 8 Spa building / *Clube de Vela de Tavira*
  - 9 Church of the old Convent of Santo António dos Capuchos
- PAGE 32
- 10 Álvaro de Campos Municipal Library
  - 11 Chapel of São Sebastião
- PAGE 35
- 12 Old Monastery of Nossa Senhora da Piedade (or Bernardas)
  - 13 Municipal market
  - 14 Mercado da Ribeira (Waterfront Market)
- PAGE 36
- 15 Manueline and Renaissance windows
  - 16 Church of Nossa Senhora das Ondas
  - 17 Casa André Pilarte (House)
  - 18 Bandstand / Garden
  - 19 Ginásio Clube de tavra (Sports Club)

Route covering approximately: 1,8 km





## Before the Bridge

From the **1 Praça da República**, go up Rua da Liberdade until you reach the Montepio Pharmacy, a building with a small **2 Manueline door**. Following Avenida Dr. Mateus Teixeira de Azevedo for around 200 metres, you will come to **3 twin buildings**, at numbers 53 and 55, that were designed by the architect Raul Lino (1879-1974) as part of his conception of the 'modern Portuguese house', an architectural standard with national relevance, especially in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

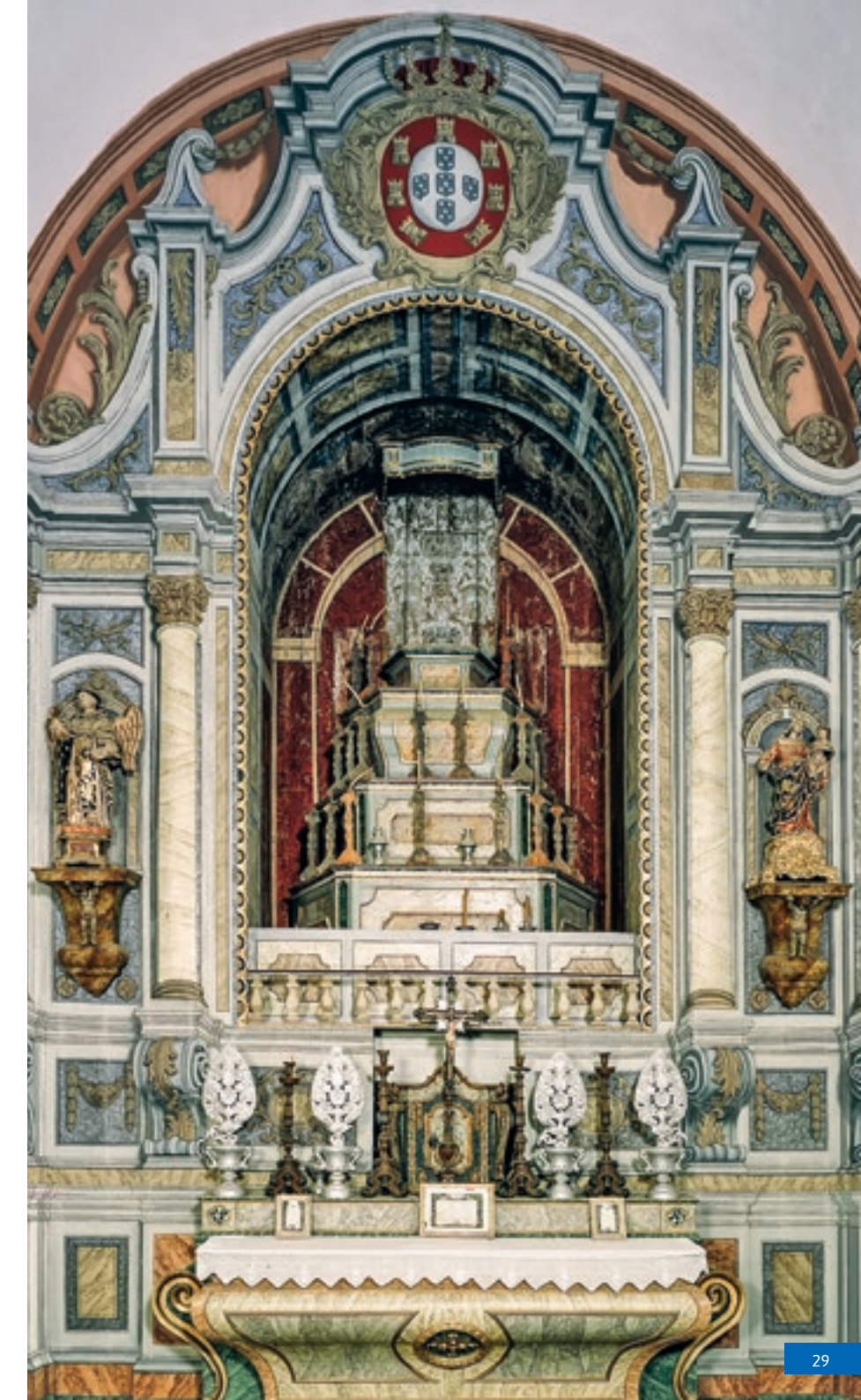


Manueline door of the Montepio Pharmacy

Return to the Avenue again, turn at the first lane on the right (Travessa de Lisboa) and carry on to the Praça Zacarias Guerreiro, where you will find yourself facing the **4 Church of hospital do Espírito Santo ou São José**, which dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Its reconstruction began in 1752 and was led by one of the figureheads of baroque art in the Algarve, the architect Diogo Tavares de Ataíde. The church is notable for its octagonal layout with uneven sides. The reconstruction dragged on until 1768 due to the damage caused by the 1755 earthquake. Inside, you can admire a mediaeval chapel in the Manueline style, an interesting altarpiece painted in 'trompe l'oeil', and some large eighteenth-century images from the old Carmo Convent. Attached to the church is the building that formerly housed the Hospital do Espírito Santo, currently an international school.

Main retable of the Church of São José do Hospital (right)

On the right, you will find the **5 São Francisco (Saint Francis) Garden**, where the Third Order of São Francisco de Tavira cemetery remains; it operated as a public cemetery until 1918. In this







garden you will also find various old insignia, tombstones and remains of gothic chapels from the old cloister. To the right of the garden, you will find the **6 Church of the old convent of São Francisco** (Saint Francis), founded in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. The old convent was once one of the most preeminent buildings of the mediaeval Algarve; however, it has been hit by various disasters, most notably earthquakes (1722 and 1755), collapse (1840) and a terrible fire (1881). Today, the church's outline is different from the original, but some Gothic elements have been preserved, mainly in the current vestry.

Turn right on leaving the church. On the left, you will find the **7 Atalaia Barracks**. Built from scratch in 1795 to house troops, it is imposing due to its size and its *Pombaline*-influenced features. Carry on past the main door and take the next street on the right (Rua 9 de Abril). Follow this street until you encounter the **8 spa building**, where the *Clube de Vela de Tavira* is based. Cross the road in the direction of the Rua de Santo António. There, you can admire the **9 Church of the old Convent of Santo António dos Capuchos** (Saint Anthony of the Capuchins), which began to be built in 1612. The church has a simple layout with a rectangular single nave and chancel. In the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the main façade was remodelled. Inside, you can admire a noteworthy eighteenth-century set of clay sculptures representing stages in St Anthony's life. Return to Rua da Atalaia and walk around the PSP police station, which you will see on the left after you pass the sports court. This is the street where the **10 Álvaro de Campos Municipal Library** is located; it resulted from the conversion of the old Tavira civilian jail, built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Atalaia Barracks

Eighteenth-century set of clay sculptures representing stages in St. Anthony's life (Church of the old Convent of Santo António dos Capuchos) (left)

Álvaro de Campos  
Municipal Library  
(right)

This project, designed by architect João Luís Carrilho da Graça, is an example of how historical heritage and contemporary architecture can be combined in such a way that they can coexist in perfect harmony.

Opposite the library, you will find the **11 Chapel of São Sebastião** (Saint Sebastian), a small church of mediaeval origin dedicated to the worship of the martyr considered a protector against epidemics and contagions. It was rebuilt in 1745 and redecorated in baroque fashion. In the chancel, there are paintings by the local painter Diogo de Mangino, which form the most complete visual representation of the life of Saint Sebastian in Portuguese art. After leave the chapel turn to the left and, carry on until you reach the **12 old Monastery of Nossa Senhora da Piedade or das Bernardas** (Our Lady of Piety or of the Bernardines). This building, founded by King Manuel I in 1509, features a side portico from that era; it has been altered several times and used for various purposes over the years. In 2012 it was restored and adapted for housing by the architect Souto Moura. If you look towards the ocean you will see the salt pans in the Ria Formosa Nature



Painting of the Chapel  
of São Sebastião



Gothic-Manueline portico  
of the old monastery  
of Nossa Senhora da  
Piedade

Salt pans (below)



📍 **Municipal Library**  
🏠 Rua da Comunidade  
Lusiada  
☎ +351 281 320 585/576  
🕒 Check the opening  
times here  
[www.cm-tavira.pt](http://www.cm-tavira.pt)





Park and in front of you is the **13 Municipal Market**, where you can buy fruit, vegetables and fresh fish in the morning from Monday to Saturday.

Now head to the hotel opposite, carry on towards the Ponte dos Descobrimentos bridge and cross the car park next to the hotel. You will find yourself facing the River Gilão. Turn left onto Rua José Pires Padinha and enjoy a stroll along the riverbank where, early in the morning, you can watch the fishing boats arrive. Follow the same street until you reach the old **14 Mercado da Ribeira (Waterfront Market)**. This historical iron building opened in 1887 and was restored in 2000 to serve its current purpose as a leisure, dining and shopping facility. Next cross the Jardim do Coreto (Bandstand Garden) and turn left at first kiosk that you find onto the Travessa D. Brites lane, where you can admire the **15 Manueline and Renaissance windows** on the top of the building on the left.



At the end of the lane, on the left, you will find the **16 Church of Nossa Senhora das Ondas (Our Lady of the Waves)**, a church for fishermen and sailors with a magnificent 1765 illusionist painted ceiling inside. The chancel features eighteenth-century altarpieces and images of Our Lady of the Waves and Saint Pedro González Telmo, protector of fishermen. After this visit, turn right to face the

Windows in Travessa D. Brites

Painted wooden roof in illusionist perspective in the Church of Nossa Senhora das Ondas (left)



Casa André Pilarte  
(right)



Bandstand

**17 Casa André Pilarte (House)**, probably built by the famous master builder for whom the building is named and who was responsible for building Tavira's Church of Misericórdia (Mercy). On the ground floor, part of a Manueline span still remains; its expressive stonework formed a concave arc decorated with a small human face. The second level opens onto a Renaissance balcony with a border dating from 1520-1540. The ground floor has been used as a venue for exhibitions by various local and regional artists and organisations since 2005. Continue on Rua Estácio da Veiga towards the public garden where you will find the **18 bandstand**; it was inaugurated in 1890 and was the main centre for city celebrations for a century. The headquarters of the **19 Ginásio Clube de Tavira** are located at number 8 to 14 on Rua José Pires Padinha. This space, which has hosted many excellent sporting moments in cycling, is located in an old manor house built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Various alterations were carried out on it at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which added the moulding and the tiling on the façade.

Return to the starting point at the Praça da República or take your time to enjoy a rest at one of the open-air cafes along the Rua José Pires Padinha or at the waterfront market.

Praça da República







# The secrets and charms of the Ria Formosa

ROUTE

- PAGE 40
  - 1 Praça da República
  - 2 Quatro Águas – pier
  - 3 Salt pans
  - 4 Ilha de Tavira Beach
  - 5 Santa Luzia Pier
- PAGE 43
  - 6 Main Church of Santa Luzia
  - 7 Terra Estreita Beach
  - 8 Barril Beach
- PAGE 44
  - 9 2000-year-old olive tree
  - 10 Main Church of Nossa Senhora da Luz
  - 11 Torre de Aires
- PAGE 47
  - 12 Chapel of Nossa Senhora do Livramento
  - 13 Tuna Fishing Museum
  - 14 Rato Fort
  - 15 Municipal market

Route covering approximately 22 km





# The secrets and charms of the Ria Formosa

(Ilha de Tavira, Santa Luzia and Luz de Tavira)

Start this tour at the **1 Praça da República** with the public garden (Jardim do Coreto) to your left. Go forward for around 600m until you reach the junction and carry on to **2 Quatro-Águas**. Along the way, take the opportunity to admire the **3 salt pans**. When you arrive at Quatro-Águas, take the boat across the Ria Formosa to **4 Ilha de Tavira Beach** (Tavira Island, Medo das Cascas Beach) with its campsite, bars, restaurants and other establishments. Return by the same route. After walking under the Ponte dos Descobrimentos bridge, turn left onto Rua das Salinas, head past the Hotel Vila Galé Tavira, and take the second exit at the roundabout. Carry on to another roundabout, taking the first exit towards Santa Luzia. Follow the signs, and turn left after you pass the military barracks. Take the EM 515 road to Santa Luzia, which is around 2km away. When you arrive at the entrance to the town, turn at the sign for the Ribeirinha (waterfront) zone. Park the car and take the opportunity to enjoy a stroll through the town; the first records relating to constructions built here by fishermen date from 1577. The chapel is dedicated to the parish's patron saint, St Lucy, a Sicilian martyr and protector of people with eye problems. In Santa Luzia, known as the 'octopus capital', watch the boats arrive at the **5 pier** loaded with cephalopods (octopuses, squid and cuttlefish) and other fish and seafood. Observe life in this fishing town and the types of fishing that are as much a part of the town as tourism and the people's hospitality. Stop at

Salt pans (right)



Pier where the boats leave to Tavira Island



Covos (octopus traps)







one of the restaurants and savour a traditional octopus dish. At only 850 hectares, Santa Luzia is the smallest civil parish in the municipality of Tavira. In Largo da Igreja (Church Square), admire the modern **6 Main Church of Santa Luzia**, a project by the Algarve architect Manuel Gomes da Costa dating from 1956 to 1958, which replaced the old sixteenth-century hermitage.

If you like, take the boat at Santa Luzia and visit **7 Terra Estreita Beach**, a large sandy beach opposite the town, in the heart of the Ria Formosa Nature Park. In the car again, follow the waterfront avenue towards Pedras D'El Rei and discover **8 Barril Beach**, which can be accessed on foot or by the tourist complex's mini-train. Take a look at the imposing "anchor cemetery" and the remains of the old tuna trap dating from 1842, converted into a shopping area. Before heading to Luz de Tavira, pass by the reception of the Pedras D'El Rei Complex, take the second street on the left (Rua Jorge Amado) and, around 25 metres farther ahead on the left, you will find a 2000-year-old **9 olive-tree**. With a treetop soaring to a height of 7.7 metres and a diameter greater than 11.80 metres, it was classified as an item of public interest in 1984. After admiring the tree, return to the main road CM1347, turn left and continue for around 800 metres. When you arrive at E.R. 125 road, turn left towards Faro. Around one kilometre farther on, you will find the town of Luz de Tavira. Observe the typical houses in the town centre, with decorative borders made from mortar on the upper part of the façades and typical chimneys, which are very pronounced or sculpted. As you leave, visit the **10 Main Church of Nossa Senhora da Luz** (Our Lady of Light) at the Largo da República square. Inside, it is a typical



Main Church of Santa Luzia



Anchor cemetery of Barril Beach

2000-year-old olive-tree (left)



Manueline side door of  
the Main Church of Nossa  
Senhora da Luz (right)



Aires Tower

hall church dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, with three naves all at the same height. The chancel houses a noteworthy seventeenth-century mannerist altarpiece. The exterior features a mannerist façade and a Manueline side gate, with intercolumniations and columns with sculpted vine leaves and bunches of grapes.

Head back towards Faro and, around 550 metres farther ahead on the left, you will see the sign for **11 Torre de Aires (Aires Tower)**. Carry on down a narrow road for around 1.5 km until you get to the tower. Visit this circular brick monument of mediaeval or possibly Arab origin, which was part of the region's defensive system along with Tavira Castle and other towers. A few kilometres away are remains of the old Roman city of Balsa (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> century), which unfortunately cannot be visited. Unexplored, it is perhaps one of the most important Roman settlements on the Iberian Peninsula. Carry on down the road along the Ria Formosa, admiring the countryside as you go. Pass the place known as Pinheiro and when you arrive at the E.R. 125 carry on towards Faro. Pass Livramento and, around 370 metres after the traffic lights, turn left towards Arroiteia. Continue down this narrow road until you reach the sign for the **12 Chapel of Nossa Senhora do Livramento** (Our Lady of Deliverance). Carry on in that direction and, when you get to the end of the road, turn right and then immediately left again. Around 70 metres down the road, you will find the chapel. Dated from 1708, it is a church with a simple portico, finished with a curved pediment flanked by two bell towers. Inside, it has a baroque altar, built with Algarve marble.

Return to Tavira on the E.R. 125, head towards





Vila Real de Santo António, pass through four roundabouts and, on the last one, take the first exit towards Tavira. Then continue to another roundabout and shopping centre (right-hand side) and head to the Ria Formosa Nature Park/ Forte do Rato (third exit). Along this route you can see the salt pans, which are often visited by flamingos and other species in spring. Carry on towards the Hotel Albacora, the former Arraial Ferreira Neto, designed by the engineer Sena Lino in 1943; at the **13 Tuna Fishing Museum** here you can learn about the capture of tuna, and the life of the fishermen and their families in the village. Returning on the same route, you will find **14 Rato Fort** on your right, which was ordered to be built from scratch in the reign of King Sebastião for the purpose of protecting the entrance to the harbour and, simultaneously, the city of Tavira. When you get back to the roundabout where you turned off, take the exit towards the centre of Tavira (Municipal Market), and then at the next roundabout take the exit for the municipal market and immediately turn left onto the Ponte dos Descobrimentos bridge. On the left you will see the **15 Municipal market**, a space where you can buy local products.

Tuna-fishing Museum  
(former Arraial  
Ferreira Neto)

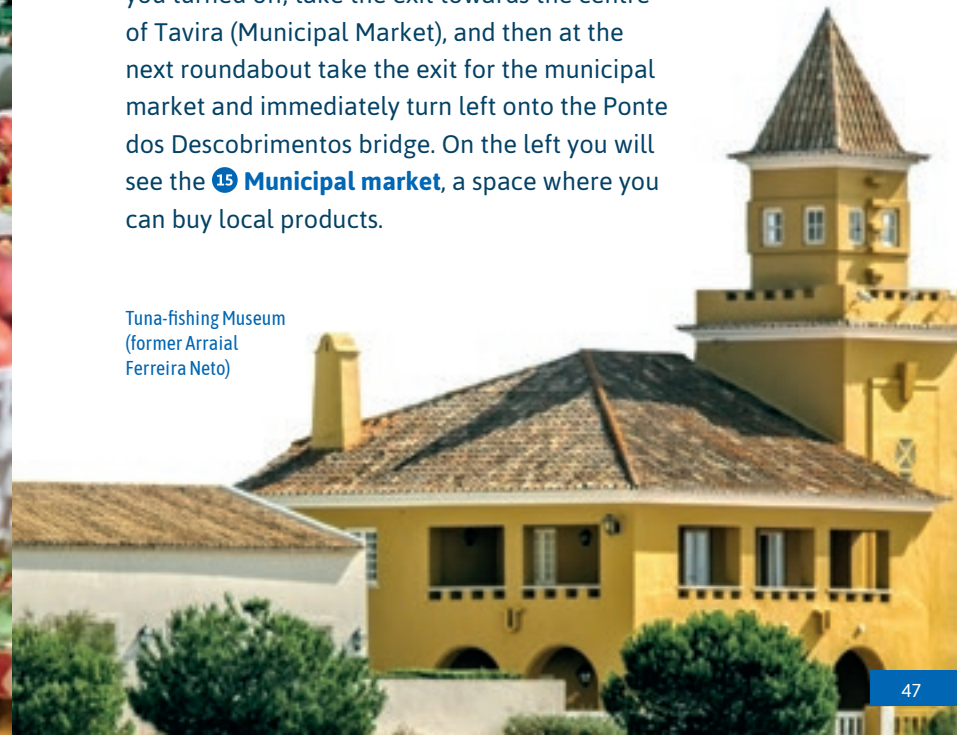
#### **Tuna Fishing Museum**

🏠 Hotel Vila Galé  
Albacora  
☎ +351 281 380 800  
📞 Contact the hotel



Rato Fort

Municipal Market  
(left)







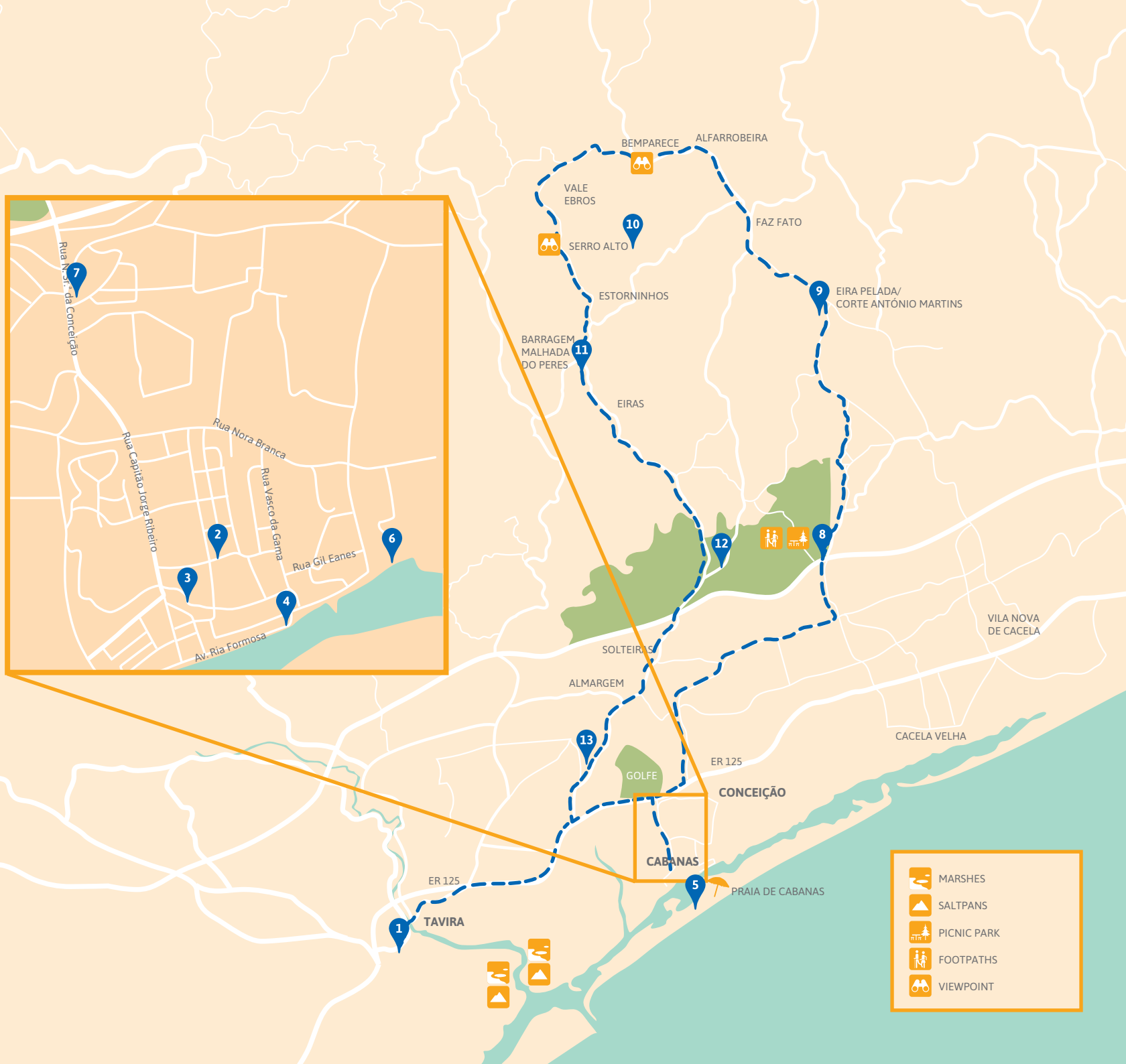
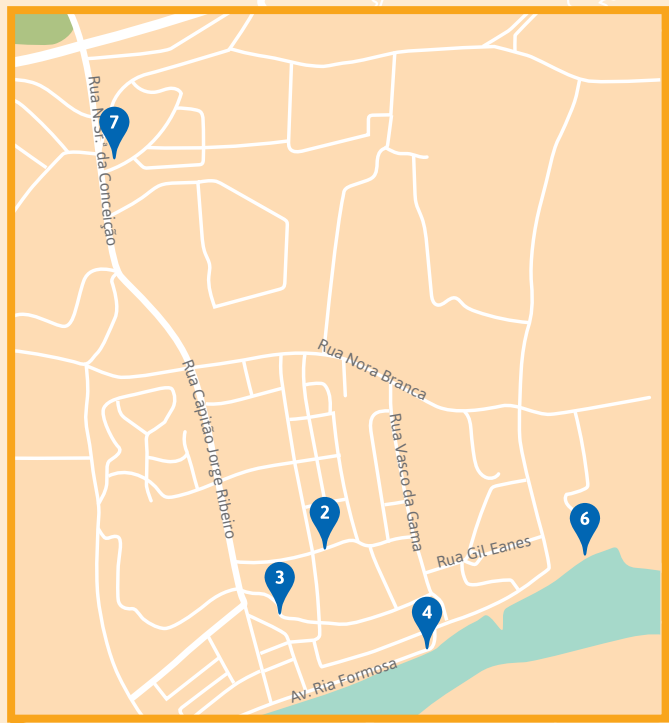
# An outing to the seashore and the upland hamlets

ROUTE

- PAGE 50 1 Municipal market
- 2 Church of Nossa Senhora do Mar
- 3 “Amigos Unidos de Cabanas” Neighbourhood
- PAGE 53 4 Cabanas Pier
- 5 Cabanas-mar Beach
- 6 São João da Barra Fort
- PAGE 54 7 Church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição
- 8 Leisure Park
- PAGE 57 9 Eira Pelada (Corte António Martins)
- 10 Serro Alto
- PAGE 58 11 Barragem (dam) Malhada do Peres
- 12 Conceição Forest Perimeter
- 13 Old bridge

Route covering approximately: 51 km





# An outing to the seashore and the upland hamlets

(Cabanas and Conceição)

Leaving the **1 Municipal market**, cross the Ponte dos Descobrimentos bridge, carry on until you come to a roundabout next to the shopping centre, keep going towards the ER 125 and then turn towards Vila Real de Santo António.

When you arrive at Conceição de Tavira you will find a roundabout with a golfer on it; take the first exit, carry on and enter the town of Cabanas after the level crossing.

The origin of this remote area’s name dates back to 1734, which was when the tuna trap began. The first “cabanas” (“cabana” is the Portuguese word for “hut”) were built as part of this activity and were essential for storing fishing paraphernalia, as well as housing for the people involved in the activity. Today, the town primarily lives on fishing and the tourism industry.

Entering Cabanas, carry on in the direction of the sea and, before you get there, turn left onto Rua José Branquinho (across from the entrance to the Pedras da Rainha holiday complex). Now turn right onto Rua Raul Brandão and a few metres farther ahead you will see the **2 Church of Nossa Senhora do Mar** (Our Lady of the Sea) to the left.

This church was expanded in June 2008. The architectural design for the expansion and remodelling of the space is based on the image of a boat in reference to the town’s fishing activity.

After this visit, turn right onto Rua Ormerindo



Fisherman repairing equipment

Church of Nossa Senhora do Mar (right)







Sousa Bagarrão and drive past the ③ **"Amigos Unidos de Cabanas"** ("United Friends of Cabanas") neighbourhood (neighbourhood of the local outpatient support service – S.A.A.L), which is on the left. This was built by the people shortly after the Carnation Revolution (25<sup>th</sup> of April 1974). Its history is inextricably linked to life at sea and the tides of a primarily fishing-based community.

At the end of Rua Ormerindo Sousa Bagarrão, turn left towards the waterfront avenue of Cabanas. Park the car and take a walk, admire the relaxing scenery of the Ria Formosa and the Ilha de Cabanas (Cabanas Island) or simply stop for a rest at one of the open-air cafes next to the Ria. Along the waterfront, you will find the ④ **pier**, where you can catch a boat to take you across the Ria Formosa to the ⑤ **Cabanas-mar Beach**. Take the opportunity to enjoy the sun and the sea.

Return along Rua da Fortaleza, where you can admire the ⑥ **São João da Barra Fort**. This fort was ordered to be built in 1656 by Count Val de Reis, in the reign of King João IV, and rebuilt in 1793. This example of Portuguese military architecture is currently private property.

Cabanas seafront avenue (left)



Pier

São João da Barra Fort





Turn left onto Rua Gil Eanes, follow it to the end and turn right onto Rua Vasco da Gama; now turn left onto Rua da Nora Branca until you reach the main road and turn right there.

After the level crossing, return to Conceição de Tavira.

The first references to Conceição are from 1518 in a report by visitors from the Order of Santiago.

Right next to the street admire the magnificent sixteenth-century **7 Church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição** (Our Lady of the Conception).

Inside, the chancel covered by a groined vault stands out, with its keystone bearing the arms of the Order of Santiago (Saint James). The main façade features a gateway with Manueline late Gothic decoration, while the capstone pediment is part of the eighteenth-century additions, which introduced baroque shapes.

After the church, turn right onto Rua 25 de Abril, pass through the village of Conceição and, at the end of this street, you will find a junction on the left. Turn towards Vila Real de Santo António and, around 300 metres farther on, turn left towards Cumeada/Mata da Conceição.

Approximately 1,300 metres farther ahead, you will encounter a junction; follow the signs indicating the **8 Parque de Lazer** (Leisure Park) until you arrive at another junction. Turn left there, heading towards the leisure park. Pass the village of Santa Rita and keep going. The leisure park is around a kilometre away.

The 40-hectare park has various species of trees and game animals, four small dams, a children's playground, toilets, a picnic area and four well-signposted trails.



Door of the Main Church  
of Nossa Senhora  
da Conceição

Fallow deer in Leisure  
Park (right)







After relaxing and enjoying this natural space, carry on in the direction of Rocha dos Corvos for around 2 km along a dirt track next to the park. Continue straight ahead, pass the hamlet of Rocha dos Corvos and, at the end of the track, turn right onto a tarmacked street. On the way, take the opportunity to enjoy the view over the landscape of hamlets like Malhada da Figueira, Champana and **9 Eira Pelada** (Corte António Martins). Now turn left towards Faz-Fato. On this route, you will find some of the old primary schools built in the 1940s and 1950s that now serve as headquarters for various associations.

Keep going for around another 3 km. To your left, there will be some signs for Faz Fato, Vale de Ebros, Cintados and Estorninhos. Turn and follow the main road, only turning left when you find the signs for Vale de Ebros and Campeiros, following that road. On this route you can admire the magnificent panoramic views to the south. Head towards the hamlet of Vale de Ebros, go through it, and then follow a dirt track to Berberia and Estorninhos.

Viewpoint at the Leisure Park (left)

Serro alto (below)





After Vale de Ebros, go 3 km further until you come to a rise in the dirt road to your right **10 Serro Alto** at the end of which there will be a spectacular view over the Serra do Caldeirão hills to the north, and south over the coast.

Go back the way you came and head towards Estorninhos. At the end, turn right onto a tarmacked road in the direction of Conceição. Go through this hamlet, Monte da Estrada, Vale Rosado and Eirões. At this last cluster of buildings, turn right towards to the dam **11 Malhada do Peres**.

After passing through Malhada do Peres, take the first road on the right (dirt tack) next to a stream. Relax and try to spot some game species. Return on the same road until you reach Eirões, and then turn right towards Conceição. Along the route, pass through Eiras, along the **12 Conceição Forest Perimeter**, and Solteiras. At the junction, carry on to the right towards Almargem/Tavira. Approximately 2 km away you will find an **13 old bridge**, probably rebuilt in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Cross it and turn left until you arrive at the ER 125, where you turn right towards Tavira.

Malhada do Peres Dam  
(left)



17<sup>th</sup> century bridge  
(below)







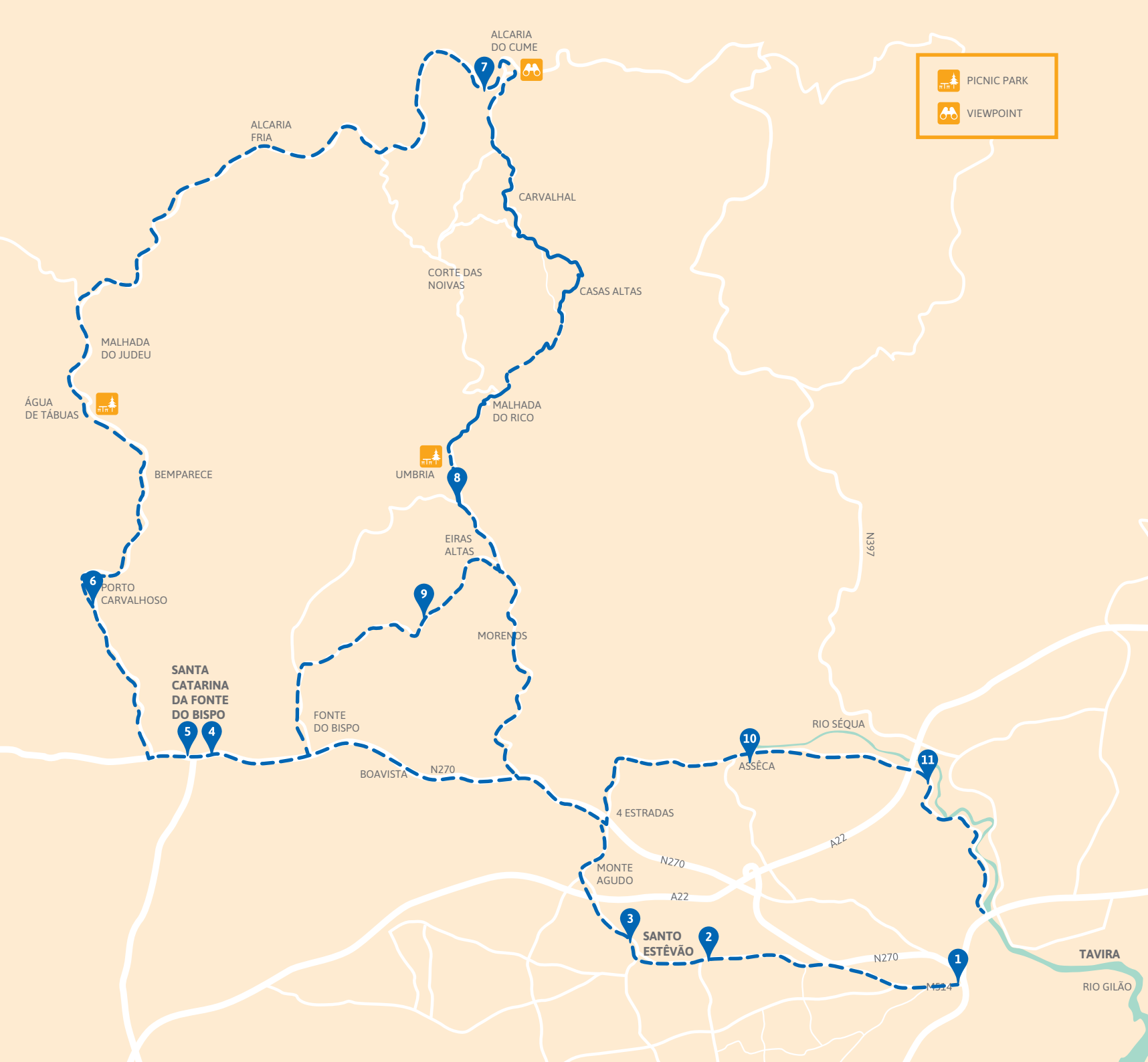
# Amid platbands and olive groves

ROUTE

- PAGE 62
- 1 Rotunda da Vela ("Sail Roundabout")
  - 2 Poço Sinagoga (Synagogue Well)
  - 3 Main church of Santo Estevão
- PAGE 66
- 4 Museum of Cooperativa de Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo
  - 5 Main Church of Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo
  - 6 Porto Carvalhoso
- PAGE 68
- 7 Alcaria do Cume
- Return by the same route or:
- 8 Umbria
- Go straight ahead or:
- PAGE 69
- 9 Eiras Altas
  - 10 Fonte das Cabras
  - 11 Séqua/Gilão River

Route covering approximately: 65 km





High altar of the Main Church of Santo Estêvão (right)



House with platband

## Amid platbands and olive groves

(Santo Estêvão and Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo)

Set off from the **1 Rotunda da Vela** (“Sail Roundabout”) on the ER 125 road and head towards Olhão; 300 metres farther on, turn right towards Santo Estêvão, admiring the fields with almond and carob trees. About four kilometres farther on, on the left, you will come to the **2 Poço de Sinagoga** (Synagogue Well). Continue for 900 metres until the road forks and, from there, keep right until you reach the village of Santo Estêvão. When you arrive, visit the **3 Main Church**, which dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and which evolved from a late-mediaeval chapel. We do not know when the former chapel was built but, from the records, we do know that it was already there in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. This is a single-nave church comprising three chapels; the images date from seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The patron saint, Santo Estêvão (Saint Stephen), can be found in the central alcove of the high altar. Some tombs dating from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century can still be seen on the floor of the church. There is a splendid wooden chest in the sacristy.

Admire the buildings around the church square (Largo Dr. Carlos Picoito), which still have the magnificent platbands, designed at the time by veritable artists. Normally, it would be the wealthier people who were able to afford to have such platbands crafted.

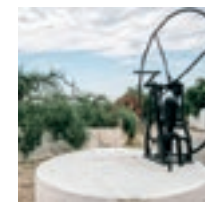
Near the church you will find a public well, which







was opened in 1875 and deepened in 1926. This is just one of the eight wells ordered sunk by the parish council during the 19<sup>th</sup> century to provide a water supply for the population. Next to the well, as indeed was the case with all of them, were stone troughs; each day, the farmers would bring their livestock here to drink, first thing in the morning and at the end of the day.



Public well built in 1875

When you are ready to get back on the road, head towards Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo (look for the sign next to the pharmacy, pointing you to the A22). When you come to a fork in the road, take the road on your left. Keep going towards Monte Agudo, admiring the scenery as you go. Typical of the Algarve, it comprises traditional dryland orchards with ancient carob, olive, almond and fig trees. According to the records, this was prime hunting land and, as a rural area, the farmers made their living from the production of carob, almonds, olive oil (there were once as many as eight olive presses in the parish), wine, wood, charcoal and limestone. The typical houses of the transitional barrocal area, dotted around the hills, had the particularity of having an oven for baking bread and a cistern to store the water used by the household.

Aerial view of Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo (left)

When you reach the crossroads (“4 Estradas”/ “four roads”), turn towards São Brás de Alportel. Along the way, on your right-hand side (Vale da Assêca), you will see a number of tile factories. The soil here is rich in chalk and clay, resulting in the development of handicrafts and the ceramics industry. Various materials used in the Algarve’s Mediterranean-style buildings are produced here, including various types of tiles and bricks. You will arrive first at Fonte do Bispo and then



Tile manufacturer



Museum of Cooperativa  
Agrícola de Santa  
Catarina (right)

📍 **Museum of  
Cooperativa Agrícola  
de Santa Catarina  
da Fonte do Bispo**

☎ +351 281 971 121

📞 Contact the  
Cooperativa Agrícola



Main Church of Santa  
Catarina da Fonte  
do Bispo

Uplands (below)

Santa Catarina. The village, whose patron saint is Saint Catherine, is surrounded by fig, olive and almond trees and orchards that make a significant contribution to the production of olive oil, liqueurs and brandies.

On the right-hand side, at the entrance to Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo, you will find an exhibition centre, **4 Museum of Cooperativa Agrícola de Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo** where an old industrial olive press has been preserved. Here, you can learn about the history of the olive industry, the olive oil manufacturing process and the functionality of the production chain. Head towards the village centre. Park the car and go for a stroll along the narrow streets. Admire the **5 Main Church of Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo**, which dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was initially built in Manueline style and later combined with the Renaissance model. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the remodelling work carried out gave the façade a Baroque-style finish. A highlight inside the three-nave church is the canvas “Juízo Final” (“Last Judgement”).

If you want to explore the authentic uplands, drive to the end of the street called “Rua 1°





de Maio”, turn right towards São Brás de Alportel, and about 100 metres farther on, head towards **6 Porto Carvalhoso**. In this direction, the drive takes you through some magnificent scenery. Along the way, you will see signs indicating some typical upland hamlets, including Alqueivinho, Malhada do Nobre, Bemparece, Água de Tábuas (where you can enjoy a stop in the picnic park), Cruzes, Malhada do Judeu, Alcorvel, Eira do Lobo, Funchal, Amendoeira and Alcaria Fria. If you fancy exploring some of them, go ahead, but then come back the same way towards **7 Alcaria do Cume**, the highest point in the municipality of Tavira, at 535 metres. Here, pause for a rest and admire the panoramic view. Return along the same road, until you reach Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo, or continue, for about 400 metres. There, turn right and head down a dirt track by way of Carvalhal, Malhada do Rico, Eira do Lobo and **8 Umbria**, where there is a picnic park, and turn left towards Morenos. Before returning to the N270 road towards Tavira, choose one of these options:



Orange orchards

Alcaria do Cume  
(below)

after approximately 1,400 metres, turn towards **9 Eiras Altas**, and admire the magnificent view, or keep going straight ahead. Both will take you to the N270 road, where you should turn towards Tavira.

Head back towards the city until you come to the 4 Estradas crossroads and turn left towards Asseca/Cachopo; 3.3 kilometres farther on, on your right, you will come to the **10 Fonte das Cabras** (Goats' Fountain), built in 1935 and restructured in 1963. This fountain is noteworthy in that it has never run dry, even in years of severe drought. This is a good place to pause for a rest. Keep going alongside the **11 River Séqua/Gilão**, enjoying the sight of the countryside covered with orange and fig trees.

In the parish of Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo, enjoy some walking routes.

More information:

[www.in-loco.pt/pt/percursos-pedestres](http://www.in-loco.pt/pt/percursos-pedestres)



Walking trail







# Discovering traditions and landscapes

ROUTE

- PAGE 72

1

Rotunda da Vela (“Sail Roundabout”)

2

Monte da Ribeira

3

Windmill
- PAGE 75

4

Main Church of Santo Estêvão

5

Cachopo Museum

6

Linen Museum exhibition

7

Fonte Férrea (iron fountain)
- PAGE 76

8

Monte da Mealha/Casas circulares (Round Houses)

9

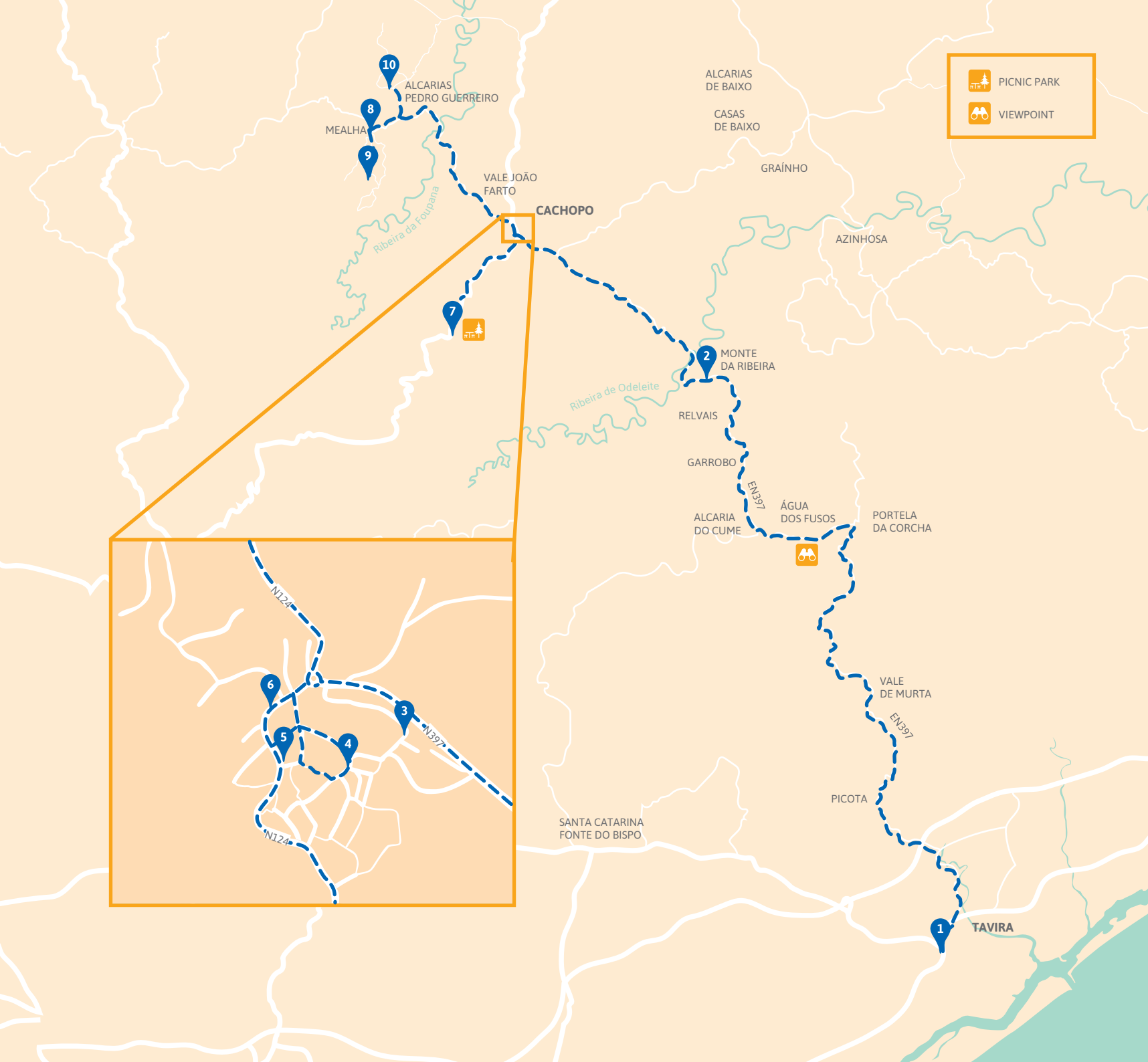
Pedras Altas Dolmen

10

Masmorra Dolmen

Route covering approximately: 51 km





# Discovering traditions and landscapes

(Cachopo)

Setting off from the **1 rotunda da vela** (“Sail Roundabout”), head along the ER 125 road towards Vila Real de Santo António. Cross the bridge (ER 125), turn left and head down to the junction.

On the right, head towards Cachopo. Admire the scenery as you drive alongside the river. After about four kilometres you will come to another junction with a sign indicating Cachopo (on the left). From there on, you will be driving for about 40 kilometres to reach the municipality’s most upland parish, where you can explore a vast cultural, archaeological and natural heritage. Along the EN 397 road, you will find signs directing you to the typical hamlets of Picota, Portela da Corcha, Vale da Murta and Garrobo. A **2 Monte da Ribeira**, enjoy a beautiful valley, in between the hills of the uplands. Try to visit the hamlets of Azinhosa, Graíño, Casas Baixas and Monte de Alcarias de Baixo too. A little farther on, you will come across the upland architecture: schist and whitewashed houses, community ovens, threshing floors, furnaces and lacy chimneys. Cachopo is the biggest civil parish in the municipality of Tavira, in terms of surface area (20,352.65 hectares), and encompasses around 37 hamlets. The inhabitants mostly make their living from farming, livestock, beekeeping and cork production.

To the left, on your way into the village, you will see a **3 Windmill**, which was built for the purpose of grinding grain by wind power. It can be visited if you book in advance<sup>1</sup>.

Windmill (right)

<sup>1</sup> You will need to contact Junta de Freguesia de Cachopo (Civil Parish office) who will open it up







View of the Main church of Santo Estêvão (left)

On arrival in the village of Cachopo, turn left where the road forks and park your car. This is where a walk around the centre of the civil parish starts. Walk to the Largo da Igreja (Church Square) and visit the **4 Main Church of Santo Estêvão** (Saint Stephen). This church, located in the centre of the village, was built on the initiative of the residents in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. Major alterations were carried out on it in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, around the 1950s, during which the original structure was taken apart and the whole interior was altered. Further renovations were carried out in 2007. Stroll around the typical narrow streets of the village and head to the street called Rua Matos Casaca, where you can visit **5 Cachopo Museum**. The building housing the museum was formally used by the “cantoneiros”, who were responsible for cleaning and maintaining the roads. This ethnographic and anthropological museum facility portrays the culture and customs of the upland peoples<sup>2</sup>.

A few metres farther on, on the left-hand side, visit the **6 Linen Museum exhibition**, next the O Moinho Kiosk. The exhibition portrays the entire process all the way from sowing the seeds to crafting the artisanal pieces.

After these visits, take the São Brás de Alportel direction and stop at the **7 Fonte Férrea de Cachopo**. The name means “iron fountain”

**Cachopo Museum**  
 Informations: Centro  
 Paroquial de Cachopo  
 ☎ +351 289 844 927

<sup>2</sup>You will need to contact the Centro Paroquial de Cachopo (Cachopo Parish Centre), who will open it up

**Linen Museum exhibition**  
 Informations: Junta  
 de Freguesia de  
 Cachopo  
 ☎ +351 289 844 112



Entrance to the Fonte Férrea Leisure Park



and it is so called because of the iron-rich waters, surrounded by lush vegetation. Take the opportunity to stop for a rest or to have a picnic and, if it is hot, enjoy a dip in the pool.

Back in the centre of Cachopo, look for the turn-off to Monte da Mealha, indicated as Vale João Farto. Here you can see the **8 Casas Circulares** (Round Houses), commonly known as “palheiros” (“haylofts”). These stone buildings of prehistoric origin have straw or rye thatched roofs and are used to store animal fodder. Next to Mealha, you will find a necropolis, the **9 Pedras Altas Dolmen**, a Neolithic funerary monument and, in Alcária Pedro Guerreiro, the **10 Masmorra Dolmen**.

Round house or haylofts  
(right)



Masmorra Dolmen

There are also various trails in the civil parish of Cachopo for walkers and cyclists to enjoy. The Centros de Descoberta do Mundo Rural (Centres for the Discovery of the Rural World), based in the old primary schools, provide users of these trails with any necessary assistance.

After enjoying the landscapes and traditions of this parish, head back to Tavira!

More information:

<http://www.in-loco.pt/pt/percursos-pedestres>

<http://www.viaalgarviana.org>





## Nature trails

The municipality of Tavira boasts a very diverse network of trails that take you through a huge variety of landscapes and let you discover the municipality's natural and cultural values. Depending on their location and characteristics, the existing trails are suitable for walkers and cyclists.





# Via Algarviana



## Via Algarviana

The Via Algarviana is a long-distance walking route (300 km) classed as a GR route (GR13). Comprising 14 sections, it begins in Alcoutim and ends at Cabo São Vicente (Cape St Vincent) in Vila do Bispo.

All along the way, the route passes through the places of greatest natural and cultural interest in each of the civil parishes. It also passes close by places where you can eat or spend the night. Apart from its intrinsic value, the Via Algarviana can be considered the “backbone” of a network of footpaths in the Algarve that complement it and create a range of alternatives to it, depending on the different walkers’ preferences and capabilities. To this end, all of the other routes that intersect with the Via Algarviana are advertised and identified along the way in order to create a network effect capable of enhancing the attractiveness of this type of tourism product.

In Tavira (Sections 4 and 5), the Via Algarviana goes through the uplands of the Serra do Caldeirão, including forested areas, water courses and the village of Cachopo, where many traditions of the rural world persist to this day. Also forming part of the Via Algarviana, there is a self-guided route which, despite not being marked out in the terrain, can be accessed through an MP3 or MP4 file containing full details. This is the “Masmorra Dolmen” route, which covers a distance of 3.8 kilometres.

The Via Algarviana can also be enjoyed by mountain bikers, since over 90% of the route is suitable for cycling.

You can obtain all the route maps here:  
<http://www.viaalgarviana.org>





## Algarve Ecovia

The Ecovia runs along the whole length of the Algarve's coastline – a total of 214 kilometres – from Cabo São Vicente (Cape St. Vincent) (Vila do Bispo) to Vila Real de Santo António, crossing twelve municipalities.

A route covering a distance of 23 kilometres between Livramento (civil parish of Luz/Santo Estêvão) and the civil parish of Conceição/Cabanas lets you admire the scenery of the Ria Formosa (consisting of vast marshlands, saltpans and various species of fauna and flora), the defensive structures along the coast and the old tuna-fishing buildings, which have now been converted for hotel and tourism purposes.

In the city, you can see the close relationship between military engineering and the architecture, with buildings such as the Atalaia Barracks and the old bridge having been designed by military engineers. This section in Tavira has different characteristics and types, i.e. a section with a lane reserved exclusively for non-motorised vehicles, and a section which is for mixed use, with no physical barrier separating motorised and non-motorised vehicles.

You can obtain all the route maps here:  
[www.cm-tavira.pt](http://www.cm-tavira.pt)





# Walking Routes

## Walking Routes (GR and PR)

There are various routes in the uplands and barrocal that are marked out in the terrain in a number of different ways: posts and directional arrows, informational arrows and interpretative panels. These routes were developed by the In Loco Association in the civil parishes of Cachopo and Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo. They bear the mark of approval awarded by the Portuguese Camping and Mountaineering Federation.

There are three long-distance routes (GR) in the civil parish of Cachopo, and nine short routes (PR), while the civil parish of Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo has six short routes. All of them take you through natural and rural landscapes, small villages and isolated hamlets; the scenery is appealing and there are various cultural and environmental points of interest.

You can obtain all the route maps here:  
<http://www.in-loco.pt>



## Notes

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook or ledger paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.







**More information:**

[www.tavira.pt](http://www.tavira.pt)



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