

The Pond Trail Route



The Pond Trail Route

The Pond Trail is a footpath known as short route. The respective markings and signs conform to international standards. The course is mainly within the Protected Area (PA) of influence of the Bertianos and St. Pedro de Arcos ponds, allowing you to enjoy the unique landscape of St. Pedro de Arcos' lagoon and interpret its natural values.



We leave the Environmental Interpretation Center (CIA) toward the pond, including the wooden bridge, an erect structure, which allows one to run along the Northern and Eastern limits of this rare biotope that led to its classification of 'Protected Area' as a Wetland of International Importance. Wetlands, the most productive ecosystems in the biosphere, are fundamental in maintaining global biodiversity, providing, in parallel, a number of environmental services. To the West it is dominated by a space of forest production space, and to the East, by arboreal vegetation that forms a protective strip around the pond. After a slight decline and to the left, which can see a small peatbog where a sundew an insectivorous plant grows.

On the bridge, we come along the first of two observation posts. A few meters away, we can see the water line that rises in the summer, thereby supplying the pond with irrigation water from the Estorãos. The observation

posts are privileged sites for the observation of species of water birds ecologically dependent on wetlands, such as the heron, the mallard, the moorhen, the little grebe, the water chicken, among many other constantly present throughout the year. The otter and mink are mammals that use up more space. From this site we can also the diversity of spaces that make up the lagoon, such as water mirrors, the arboreal vegetation strips and emerging shrubby vegetation patches. Continuing, we come to the fork that allows us to follow other walking routes. On the opposite side of the lagoon, there are the natural pastures, subject to extended periods of waterlogging and that, when limited by hedges, based on oaks, alders and willows form a sort of 'Bocage' landscape, which at a national level, can only be found in the area of Aveiro. These pastures were decisive in the local cattle industry. Before leaving the bridge, we find the second observation post, which lends a broader view of the pond. We continue to be able to observe the birdlife, which tends to concentrate in the fall / winter, amid the water mirror, searching for space and the safety of trees from within the wetland. In the spring / summer, water lilies emerge and flower, creating a magnificent scenario. During this period, varied species of reeds and other shrubs (e.g. Willow herb), become more visible and have a strong importance for different species of birds, amphibians and arthropods, by providing them with shelter, food and nidification. Following the route directions, we reach the southern part of the lagoon, and we turn right on a parallel path to the named Manor ditch an artificial water line that was built but which fortunately without the desired success for pond drainage effects. We cross over the ditch, across a wooden bridge and walk a few meters, where we can glimpse the EIC.



Regulation

- Do not leave the marked and signposted route. Pay attention to the markings.
- Avoid making noise and clatter.
- Respect private property.
- Do not leave trash. Leave it in the appropriate collection point.
- Leave nature intact. Do not collect plants, animals or rocks.
- Avoid walking alone. Take water with you.
- Always use appropriate footwear, waterproof sunscreen and a hat.
- On public roads, always circulate with caution.



Datasheet

Route name: The Pond Trail Route

Promoter: Ponte de Lima Municipality

Type of Route: Circular, Small Route

Route Scope: Ecological and Landscape

Departure point / arrival:

Environmental Interpretation Centre

Distance Travelled: 1,57km

Duration of course: 0h: 45m

Degree of Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Quota Reached: 17 meters

Texts: Municipality of Ponte de Lima

Design: Xpto Design



Starting point / finish

41° 45' 52,289" N | 8° 38' 34,596" W

Points of Interest

1. Environmental Interpretation Centre
2. St. Pedro d'Arco's Pond
3. Observation Stations
4. Natural Pastures



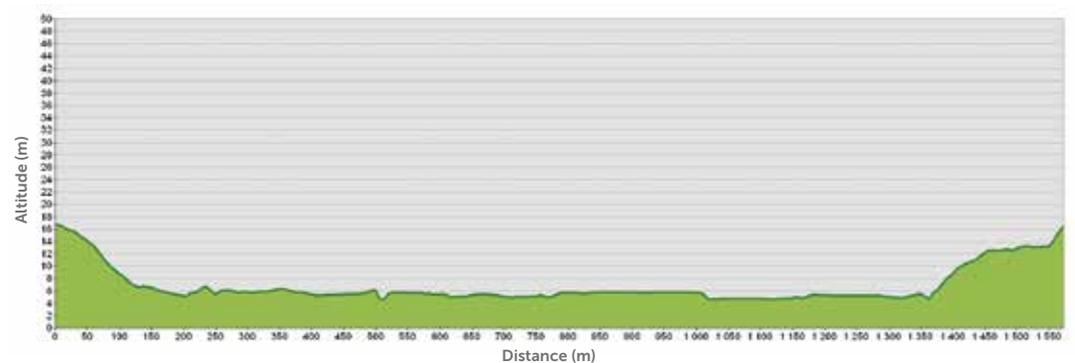
Municipality of Ponte de Lima
tel. 258 900 400
Volunteers' Fire brigade of Ponte de Lima
tel. 258 909 200
Health Center of Ponte de Lima
tel. 258 909 280
Ponte de Lima Hospital
tel. 258 909 500
Tourism Shop of Ponte de Lima
tel. 258 240 208
Protected Area of Ponte de Lima
SOS Ponds: Cell phone. 963 520 002

Useful Contacts



Right direction Wrong direction Left direction Right direction

Altimeter Profile



Download the application

