

PR6 – The Secrets of Ferreira



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Starting/Arrival Point: Ferreira (intersection with the road to Rosário – GPS: 38.569519, -7.359826)

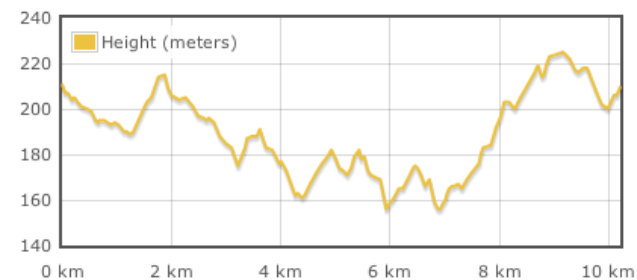
Distance/duration: 10 km – about 3 hrs

Degree of difficulty: medium

The route starts in the village of Ferreira at the intersection with the road coming from Rosário. If you walk from the campsite you can join the trail 1.7 km after the bridge. It's an itinerary that runs up and down the hills, with a beautiful view over the Alqueva, and passing by the *Ermida de Nossa Senhora das Neves*.

The lands of Ferreira have been inhabited since prehistoric times and there are a number of settlements on the banks of the originally-named Luceférit Stream, which flows into the River Guadiana. The proximity to important watercourses enabled a number of water mills to be built, but these are all now under the waters of Alqueva. The characteristics of the terrain allowed the production of slates and different types of tiles here, as can be seen from the several kilns which are still standing. The mine continued to be worked until the 20th century, mostly for iron and copper. Farming, livestock and, of course, smuggling were essential activities for the livelihoods of the local people. All around, but especially on the banks of the streams, you will see many different birds, among them the rare black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and various birds of prey. In spring, the fields are reminiscent of an impressionist painting, with purple viper's bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*) and poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*), among many others covering the hills for as far as the eye can see.

✚ Elevation Chart



.gpx file available
at the reception

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