

Writing in Stone and Lime

Starting/Arrival Point: Monsaraz (North Door)

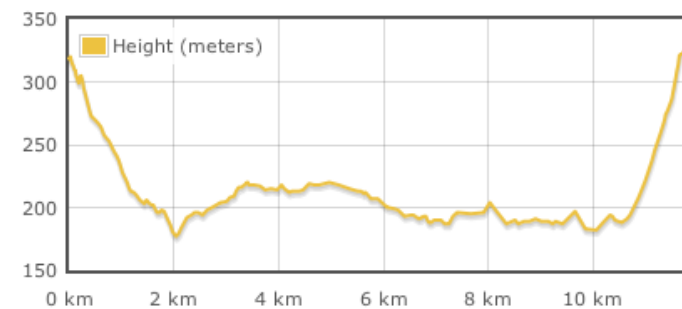
Distance/duration: 13 km – about 3.5 hrs

Degree of difficulty: medium

Being in Monsaraz is almost like touching the sky. High on top of its more than 300 metres altitude, it dominates the surrounding plain and ensures the best views of Lake Alqueva, which almost reaches the base of its rock mass. A location of great landscapes, this village was throughout time chosen by different peoples as a place of dwelling and defense, giving rise to a walled set that marks the skyline and defines the history of the region.

This trail will bring you along the most important megalithic monuments around Monsaraz. In the vicinity of the **Convent of Orada** (3), you will see the **Cromlech of Xeres** (4), a megalithic monument composed of 52 menhirs in granite. Due to the construction of the Alqueva dam, the cromlech was relocated in the current position in 2003. Near the village of **Aldeia do Outeiro**, you can admire the **Menhir of Outeiro** (6), the biggest in Portugal, with a size of about 5.6 meters high, 1 meter in average diameter and with the weighing of about 8 tons. After the village of **Barrada** and the Horta of Reboredo you will reach the crossing with the Estrada Real (road, 9). Here you can go straight and north to see the **Belhoa Menhir** (8), that dates to the 6th/5th millennia BC and/or go south to the village of **Telheiro** with its impressive fountain (10). Take the hill that lies between the old school and the guard station. Go up the hill until you find the entrance to Monsaraz.

✚ Elevation Chart



.gpx file available
at the reception

