

The water

One of the greatest assets of this Protected Area is the water. The Local Protected Landscape is crossed by the **Menalva river**, which is supplied by several **springs**, among which “**O Olho**” and the **Fonte da Benémola**. These allow the river to maintain its flow even during the summer season, this way contributing to the local biodiversity. Dams were rebuilt to retain the water, allowing the formation of beautiful water mirrors that gave origin to ideal spots for the contemplation and observation of the natural heritage.



Dragonfly (*Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis* - female)

Joana Alho



Jacinto-azul-do-algarve (*Bellevia hackelii*)

Clara Fernandes



European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)

Clara Fernandes

Code of conduct in the protected area

- Respect local lifestyles and traditions.
- Respect the locals.
- Respect private property.
- Avoid noise and attitudes that disturb the peace.
- Keep your distance from the animals, do not feed them, and observe them through binoculars.
- Do not collect plants, parts of plants, or geological samples.
- Respect the Protected Area signs.
- The routes are intended for small groups, one at a time, as the excess of visitors can cause erosion and the destruction of vegetation.
- No type of fire is allowed.
- Each visitor is responsible for the garbage produced. This should be put in the appropriate containers.
- Follow the marked trails.
- Camping is not allowed.
- The pedestrian route is also used by cyclists so mutual respect and common sense are expected.

Advice

- Check weather forecasts before doing the route and avoid the hottest hours of the day, during the summer, and heavy fog and / or rain, in the winter.
- Bring suitable hiking equipment such as comfortable footwear, light clothing and wide-brimmed hats in the summer, or waterproof in the winter. It is important to wear sunscreen and bring wate.

Water Availability

In Querença

Local Groceries

In Querença

Location

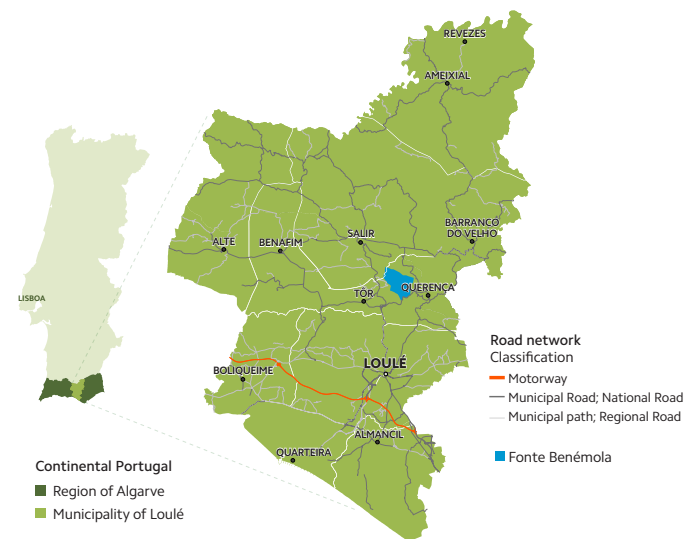
Region of Algarve, Municipality of Loulé, Union of Parishes of Querença, Tôr and Benafim.

Accessibility

In Loulé, take the Municipal Road 525, towards Salir / Tor. At the crossroads of Tor, turn right following the indications to Fonte Benémola.

Departure and arrival point

Fica Bem - 37°11'55.43"N | 8° 0'15.38"W.



Useful Contacts

- Loulé Municipal Council (Environment Division): +351 289 400 890
- Querença, Tôr e Benafim Union Parish: +351 289 422 337 • +351 289 414 908 • +351 289 472 402
- Tourism Post of Querença: +351 289 422 495
- Loulé Health Centre Extension of Salir (only Thursday): +351 289 401 000
- In case of an emergency call: 112

Promoter:



Partner:



Path Registered and Certified by:



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Fonte da Benémola spring

The Local Protected Landscape of Fonte da Benémola

The **Local Protected Landscape of Fonte da Benémola** is a Protected Area of local scope, belonging to the Barrocal Site of Community Importance, under the management of the Municipality of Loulé, with its own Regulation (**Notice nº 20717/ 2010, 18th October**), and occupying an area of about 406 ha in the Union of Parishes of Querença, Tôr and Benafim, municipality of Loulé.

Route Description

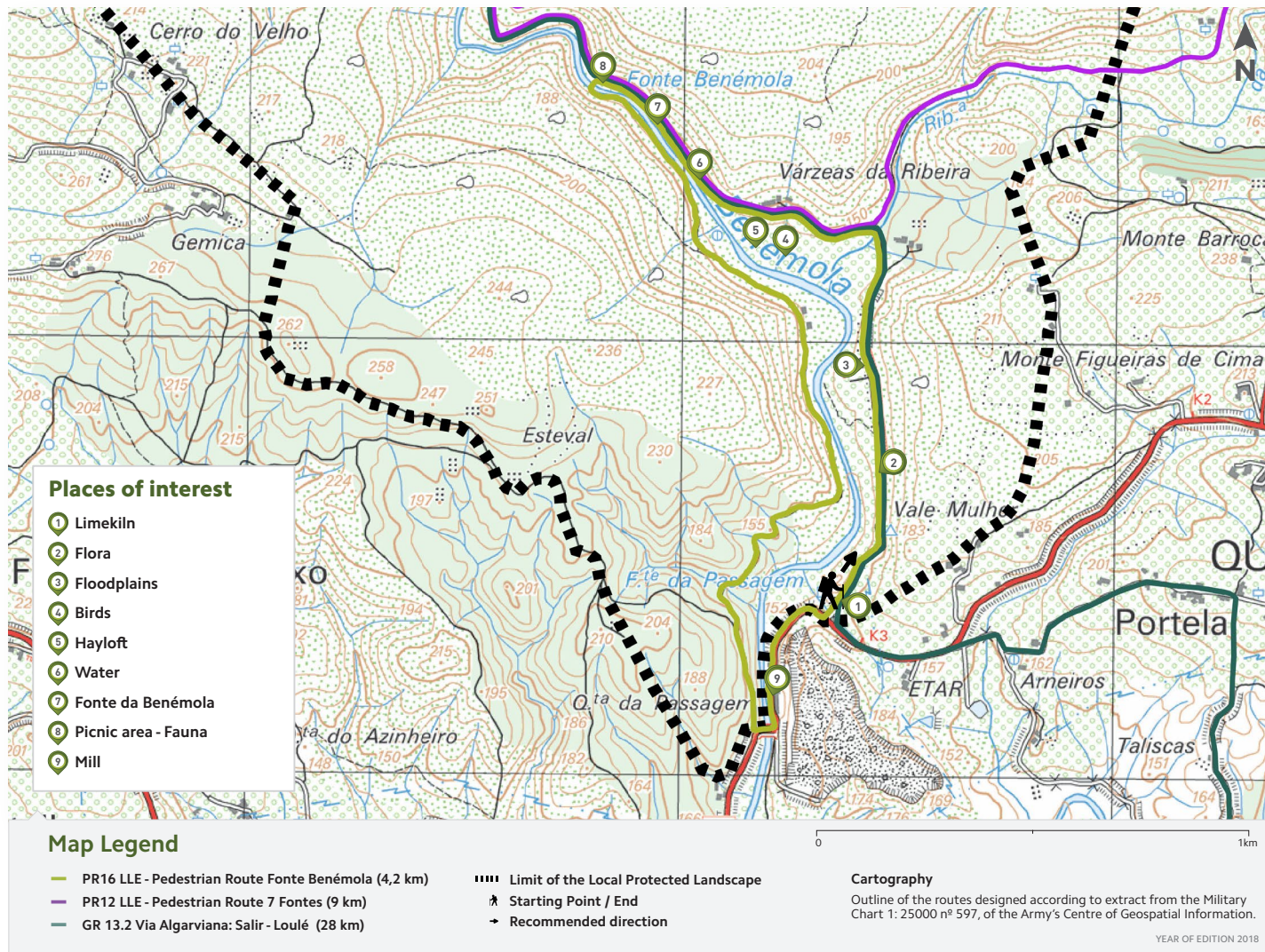
The pedestrian route starts at the dirt parking lot (Fica Bem), located next to the Municipal Road (MR) 524 between the villages of Tôr and Querença, and it proceeds through the main dirt road, among the characteristic vegetation of the algarvian Barrocal, passing by information Panels regarding the Benémola Flora and Floodplains. Proceeding, the route crosses a small river and turns left at the crossroads, towards the Menalva River. Near the Ornithological Station of Fonte Benémola, there is an information Panel regarding the Birds. The route continues along the main road, where an old hayloft appears on the left. When reaching the Panel regarding Water, the Olho (spring), the poldras (step-stone bridges), a first picnic park, and, on the right, the levadas (irrigation channels), the route continues forward up to the Fonte da Benémola (spring) and then to a second picnic park, an information Panel about Fauna and the remains of an old limekilns.

The section from the intersection up to here is common to the Via Algarviana (Algarvian Route) and the pedestrian route of Sete Fontes (PR12LLE). A variant to the route is possible by crossing the water line, before the first picnic park, using the poldras. There is also a guided audio route – the Water Route – next to the water line.

The route crosses the river and continues along the main road, where it is possible to find the house of an old basket maker from the region (to the left), until reaching again the Municipal Road 524. The route then turns left, crosses the Passagem Bridge, and turns left again. Following along the MR 524, it passes the old Passagem Mill (once one of the most important mills of the area) until arriving at the dirt parking lot (Fica Bem).



Menalva River



Technical Sheet



4,2 km
distance



Circular
counter - clockwise
direction
type of route



1h
duration
(approximate)



Recommended Season
All year round, although springtime is the most beautiful in terms of flora and weather conditions.



156/142m
altitude max/min

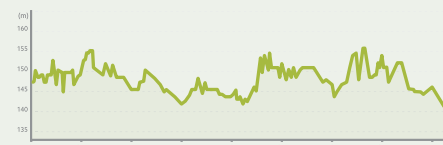


188 m
altitude variation



Easy (level 2)
difficulty level

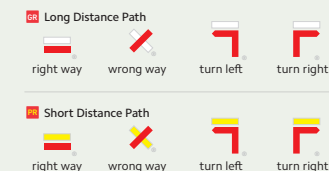
Topography



Warning

In the pedestrian route, between the spring O Olho and the second picnic park, the geological material of these slopes is favourable to the occurrence of rockslides. Due to this, in this area, you should pay attention and proceed with caution.

Signage



The pedestrian path cross temporarily the long distance path