

Key

- PR3** Limestone Route
- Highway
- Main roads
- Unpaved roads

Points of Interest

- 1 Terreiro do Paço
- 2 Sr. da Fonte Chapel and swimming pool
- 3 Ançã Stream
- 4 Portunhos Church
- 5 Limestone quarries
- 6 Old lime kilns
- 7 Ançã Church
- Picnic area



Extension

9,7 km

Duration

02h30m

Type of Route

Circular

Total ascent/descent

+ 110 m

Height

max/min
106 / 31 m

Recommended season

Year-round

Difficulty

The level of difficulty is expressed in 4 different categories, rated 1 to 5 (1: easy; 5: hard)



Type of terrain



Physical exertion



Difficulty



Orientation

Signage



Right way



Wrong way



Turn right



Turn left

Special care and standards of conduct

- Special care and standards of conduct
- Follow only the marked trails
- Respect the birdlife. Do not touch the nests and avoid noise and disturbance
- Observe wildlife from a distance, preferably with binoculars
- Do not litter, drop the trash at a collection point
- Do not collect or damage the flora
- Respect private property
- Avoid behaviours that disturbs the local environment
- Do not light fires
- Be friendly to local people, clear about your purpose and about the waymarks

Contacts

Sponsor

Comunidade Intermunicipal da Região de Coimbra
Rua do Brasil, N.º 131
3030-175 Coimbra
tel. 239 795 200 · 239 795 209
geral@cim-regiaoodecoimbra.pt

Emergency 112

further information



Sponsored by



Co-financed by



Route registered and approved by



Information

Tourism office
Largo Conselheiro Ferreira Freire
3060-201 Cantanhede
tel. 231 410 155
turismo@cm-cantanhede.pt
SCHEDULE mon. to fri. 10h-13h · 14h-18h

Tourism office

Praça do Pelourinho 3060-049 Ançã
Tel. 239 964 545
SCHEDULE everyday 10h-13h
14h30-17h

REGIÃO DE
COIMBRA

TURISMO

SEA AND DUNES



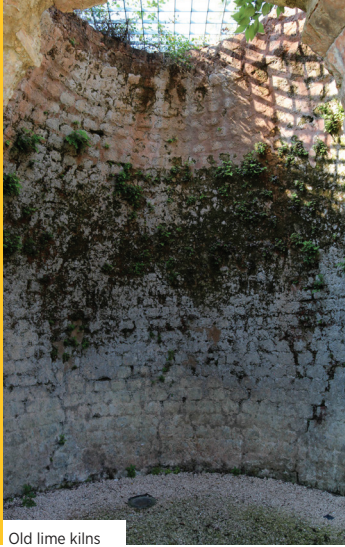
LIMESTONE ROUTE

Cantanhede



PR3
CNT

Limestone Route is a small, circular route, about 10 km in length, and part of the CIM-RC “Sea and Dunes” transversal project. This route is a testimony to the importance limestone exploitation had in the local economy, and in shaping the countryside across the civil parishes of Ançã and Portunhos/Outil, in the municipality of Cantanhede.



Old lime kilns



Limestone sculpture



The recommended starting point for the route is located by the Ançã Tourist Office. This route, chiefly intended as an interpretive and educational activity, visits the limestone quarries, showing how limestone was extracted, and the old lime kilns, showing how limestone was transformed into quicklime, and applied to the urban environment.

Commonly termed “Ançã stone”, limestone from Cantanhede played a key role in Portuguese sculpture during the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. Since then, it consistently contributed to the economic and artistic development of the entire region, as a raw material used in stonemasonry and sculpture. Known for its light hue and easy pliability, it was used at the workshops in and around Coimbra, where the most talented stone carvers, masons and sculptors flocked to over the centuries, including the greatest Portuguese sculptor of the Renaissance – João de Ruão – to produce the art pieces adorning religious altars throughout Portugal.

The vigour that characterised these sculptures was such that it originated the “Coimbra Renaissance” style. Testimony to the importance of Ançã stone is evident throughout the municipality, and along the route through the villages of Ançã and Portunhos, in the masonry work present on the façades of houses, both as surface and decorative elements, as well in the sculptural elements present a little all over the place.

The route is also worthwhile for including the Ançã Stream. An important aquifer for the region, and a link to the River Mondego at one point, it supported the appearance of a forest with maritime pine, stone pine and Portuguese oak trees, as well as other species that typically grow in lime-rich soils, such as the kermes oak, the gum rockrose, the sage-leaved rockrose, the false olive, the Mediterranean buckthorn, the grey-leaved cistus, and some notable specimens of the cork oak. The ground along the banks of the Ançã Stream supports several riparian species such as willows, common alder, the narrow-leaved ash, and hawthorn, which fence farm land and olive groves.

There is also a wide range of animal species such as the European turtle dove, the stock dove, the Eurasian blackbird, the carrion crow, the red-legged partridge, the black kite, the ocellated lizard, the iberian psammmodromus, and the red fox.



Ançã Stream

Fauna 1 European turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* 2 Stock dove *Columba oenas* 3 Eurasian blackbird *Turdus merula* 4 Carrion crow *Corvus corone* 5 Red-legged partridge *Alectoris rufa* 6 Black kite *Milvus migrans* 7 Ocellated lizard *Timon lepidus* 8 Iberian psammmodromus *Psammmodromus manuelae* 9 Red fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Flora 1 Stone pine *Pinus pinea* 2 Kermes oak *Quercus coccifera* subsp. *coccifera* 3 Gum rockrose *Cistus ladanifer* subsp. *ladanifer* 4 Sage-leaved rockrose *Cistus salvifolius* 5 False olive *Phillyrea angustifolia* 6 Mediterranean buckthorn *Rhamnus alaternus* 7 Grey-leaved cistus *Cistus albidus* 8 Common alder *Alnus glutinosa* 9 Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*

