



## PLACES TO VISIT

I

### MONSENHOR NUNES PEREIRA MUSEUM

Make contact. Contact details. Symbolic price  
 235 751 317 ou 937 333 312

II

### PIODÃO MUSEUM

**Closed:** 1st January, Easter Sunday and 25th December.  
 Summer (15th June to 15th September): 10 am-1 pm and 2 pm-6 pm  
Winter (16th September to 14th June): 9 am-1 pm and 2 pm-5 pm



## RESTAURANTS

III

### O PASCOAL Fajão

**Speciality:** Roasted kid. Baked cod.  
**Closed:** Monday.  
Average price: €10 to €15

235 751 219

40°8'58.11"N; 7°55'23.45"O

IV

### O FONTINHA Piódão

**Speciality:** Fontinha-style chanfana. Bucho recheado.  
**Closed:** Open every day.  
Average price: €10 to €15

235 731 151

40°13'47.30"N; 7°49'29.66"O

V

### O LAGAR DO ALVA Coja

**Speciality:** Chanfana. Kid. Benfeita's bucho. **Closed:** Open every day.  
Average price: €12,5 to €20

235 721 640

40°16'5.63"N; 7°59'42.74"O



## WALKING TRAILS

**VI PR\*1 PPS Fajão Schist Trail –**  
Climb the crags  
**Circular.** Distance: 4.1km. Duration: 2.5 hours. Minimum altitude: 625m. Maximum altitude: 865m. Easy.

**VII PR\*2 PPS Fajão Schist Trail –**  
Around the Ceira  
**Circular.** Distance: 6.5km. Duration: 2.5 hours. Minimum altitude: 469m. Maximum altitude: 755m. Easy.

**VIII PR\*3 PPS Santa Luzia Dam Schist Trail**  
**Circular.** Distance: 9.7km. Duration: 3 hours 20 minutes. Minimum altitude: 630m. Maximum altitude: 789m. Easy.

**IX NETWORK OF TRAILS IN THE AÇOR MOUNTAINS PROTECTED LANDSCAPE**  
This protected area has 5 walking trails that allow you to discover its natural treasures

**X PR1 ARG Benfeita Schist Trail**  
**Circular.** Distance: 10.4km. Duration: 5 hours. Minimum altitude: 299m. Maximum altitude: 598m. Medium.



## RIVER BEACHES

### XI SANTA LUZIA RIVER BEACH

Gold Quality in 2012 and 2014 and Blue Flag in 2014. The escarpments of the Vidual Mountains complete the stunning surrounds.

### XII PIODÃO RIVER BEACH

A small river beach with support services (bar and restaurants) at the entrance to Piódão.

### XIII BENFEITA RIVERSIDE BATHING AREA

Situated along Ribeira da Mata in the village centre with various facilities and services available.

### XIV COJA RIVER BEACH

River beach on the River Alva, next to the campsite..

### XV SECARIAS RIVER BEACH

River beach on the River Alva near Secarias, a few kilometres from Arganil.

\*PR means Pedestrian Routes. You can download them in our site.

## STAY IN CERDEIRA, EXPLORE THE CENTRE OF PORTUGAL



Cerdeira is the best option for those seeking a balance between being immersed in the tranquil nature of the mountains and their interest in exploring the historical and cultural richness of the centre of Portugal.

Stay in one of eight comfortable houses built from schist, clay and chestnut wood in which art completes tradition. You can also have a creative experience with artists from around the world who choose Cerdeira as a place of inspiration.



All houses have fully equipped kitchens where you may be inspired to try new dishes made with fresh market produce. You can also use the village wood oven to bake bread or learn how to make chanfana, a typical local dish of goat slow-cooked in red wine.

Cerdeira Village - Creative Center & Accommodation  
Lugar da Cerdeira, 3200-509 Lousã | 40° 05.645 N | 8° 11.726 O  
+351 911 789 605 | reservas@cerdeiravillage.com | www.cerdeiravillage.com

CENTRO 2020

PORTUGAL 2020





# Cerdeira Village

Creative Center & Accommodation

## Açor Mountains *Schist at the highest points*

ROUTE  
**5**

Fraga da Pena, Benfiteira, Argamil



ACTIVE



VILLAGES



HISTORY  
AND CULTURE



RECREATION



LANDSCAPE



BEACHES  
INLAND



NATURE

STAY IN CERDEIRA, EXPLORE THE CENTRE OF PORTUGAL



D - Santa Luzia Dam

## WHAT TO EXPLORE

The **Açor Mountains** lie between the Lousã and Estrela mountain ranges. They are a mountainous schist formation that reaches 1418m at its highest altitude and is the fifth highest in mainland Portugal. The source of the **River Ceira** as well as the streams that feed the **Zêzere** and the **Alva** rivers, all of which flow through deep narrow valleys. Thanks to the quality of its waters and the landscapes surrounding the riverbanks, this area is home to some exceptional river beaches. The slopes and valleys of the **Açor Mountains** are dotted with countless villages with buildings

constructed from rough angular brown stones that echo the landscape. The slopes are so steep they can barely hold the soil. Therefore, around the villages, more brown stones are stacked to create terrace walls that contain the earth and make agriculture possible. Here and there, a series of quartzite rocks introduces a touch of ruggedness to the rounded ridges of the schist mountains. You will see them in **Penedos de Fajão** and the **Vidual Mountains**, divided by the **River Unhais** but connected once more by the construction of the **Santa Luzia Dam**.

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### WHAT IS HIDDEN IN THE AÇOR

#### Historic Villages of Portugal

- Piódão

#### Schist Villages

- Aldeia das Dez
- Benfeita
- Fajão
- Sobral de São Miguel
- Vila Cova do Alva

#### Classified areas

- Açor Mountains Protected Landscape
- Açor Complex Site of Community

#### Importance (SCI)

#### Dams and reservoirs

- Alto Ceira
- Santa Luzia

#### Peaks with exceptional views

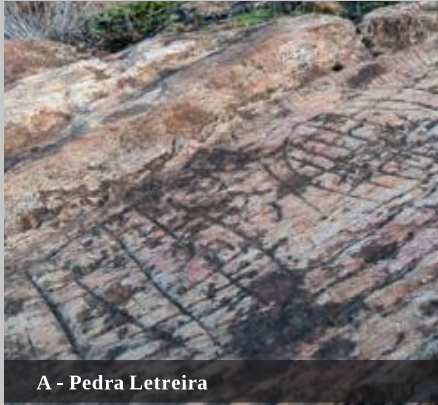
- Cebola
- Colcurinho
- Gondufo
- Penedos de Fajão
- São Pedro do Açor



### PRECAUTIONS

Walking or cycling over the Santa Luzia dam wall is not recommended for those suffering from vertigo. The Colcurinho viewpoint can be unpleasant on windy days. Respect the safety rules when visiting Fraga da Pena.

## MOST IMPORTANT PLACES



A - Pedra Letreira

A

PEDRA LETREIRA

A schist outcrop where several prehistoric engravings can be seen on the surface. Getting there: At the 290 km point on the EN2, at the junction with the EN112, in a place known as Portela do Vento, follow the dirt road on the right for about 600m. Downhill, on the right, you will see the rocky outcrop with engravings. Try not to damage it.

B

FAJÃO

Protected by the Penedos de Fajão (Fajão Crags), this village offers a wide range of services (ATM, WC, public swimming pool, picnic area, Schist Village Shop, café, restaurant, accommodation and a Schist Trail). Monsignor Nunes Correia was born nearby; in addition to practicing his faith, he was an artist, and his museum is here.

C

AÇOR COMPLEX SCI

This Nature 2000 site is made up of 4 separate areas. The Margaraça Forest; another area on the steep hill of Penedos de Fajão which is covered with oaks, chestnut trees, cork oaks, holm oaks, strawberry trees and Portuguese laurel; the peak of São Pedro do Açor (1342m) and Pico da Cebola (1418m), the highest parts of the Serra do Açor, covered in high altitude forests.

D

SANTA LUZIA DAM

A feat of engineering enabled a dam wall to be installed in a spectacular quartzite canyon in the River Unhais. It is possible to cross the crest of the dam to fully appreciate the rock formations. Not suitable for those who suffer from vertigo.



B - Fajão

E

PIÓDÃO

The Historic Villages of Portugal was the first network of villages to be created and Piodão quickly joined it. Although it has none of the significant monuments that typically characterise the villages in this network, Piodão is an excellent example of the construction and organisation of villages built from schist and happens to sit well alongside the 27 villages that make up the more recent Schist Villages Network. It has a tourist information office and a small museum.



E - Piódão parish church

F

AÇOR MOUNTAINS  
PROTECTED  
LANDSCAPE

With its forest of deciduous species and an abundance of evergreens, holly and Portuguese laurel, Margaraça Forest is one of Portugal's most important forested areas. It has an interpretation centre and walking trails. Enclosed in a narrow valley, Fraga da Pena [8], a 20m-high waterfall which cascades into the Degrainhos ravine, is another emblematic feature of this landscape.



G - Peace Tower clock mechanism, Benfeita

G

BENFEITA

The agricultural and commercial development of this schist village enabled the schist facades to be rendered. Several services are available here (WC, coffee, river bathing area, Fonte das Moscas Viewpoint, Schist Village Shop and Schist Trail).

H

COJA

Located next to the River Alva, the site makes good use of the bridge and the agricultural land that extends along the Ribeira da Mata (Forest Stream), which flows into the River Alva.

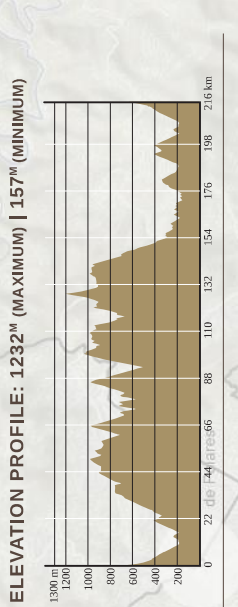
# Açor Mountains

## Schist at the highest points

ROUTE 5

**ROUTE DESCRIPTION**  
**CERDEIRA** - Louisa - follow the EN 342 towards Góis - turn right at the junction with the EN2 when you reach Poreira de Góis - **PEDRA LETREIRA** - head towards Pampilhosa da Serra (EN112) - turn left at the Fajão crossroads - **FAJÃO** - make a detour to **BARRAGEM DE SANTA LUZIA** - return to Fajão - go downhill, cross the River Ceira and continue to Gralhas - after climbing for a few kms, turn left when you reach the new road - turn right at the next 2 crossroads - downhill to Piodão - go back up the slope and turn right toward **GRAMAÇA** / **PORTO SALVADO** / **PONTE 3 ENTRADAS** - after 2-3km turn right to climb to the top where you will glimpse the Chapel of Our Lady of Necessities - **MIRADOURO DO COLCURINHO** - go back downhill, turning left then right to retrace your route - turn right at the crossroads to go downhill - in Monte Frio turn left towards Benfeita - **MATA DA MARGARAÇA**, park next to Casa Grande - continue downhill to **FRAGA DA PENA** - continue downhill to **BENFETA** - **COJA** - Arganil - Góis - Louisa - **CERDEIRA**.

**DISTANCE (ROUND TRIP): 216 KM**



**KEY**

- Starting point
- End point
- Road
- National highway
- Nature 2000 Network (protected natural area)
- A-H Most important places
- I-IV Points of interest
- V-VII Restaurants and places to visit (see back page)
- VIII Schist Village
- IX Museum / Monument
- X Nature
- XI Landscape
- XII Pedestrian route
- XIII Restaurant

**JUST BETWEEN US...**  
**FAJÃO PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL**  
 A swimming pool above the schist village of Fajão with a direct view of the highest points in the Açor Mountains. There is a grassy area, a bar and a shallow pool for kids to paddle safely.

**POÇO DO BEGO**  
 A small lake along the course of the River Ceira, for those who wish to cut themselves off from the world for a while.  
 40°05'54" N, 7°52'18" O

**7 CASA GRANDE IN MAGARAÇA FOREST**  
 Interpretation centre for the Açor Mountains Protected Landscape.

**8 FRAGA DA PENA**

**9 SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF NECESSITIES**  
 Situated between Pardieiros and Benfeita, the sanctuary consists of the chapel that provides its name and that of Our Lady of Guá. About 200m away from these is St. Bartholomew's Chapel. A monumental oak tree stands in the centre of the complex.

**10 BENFEITA SCHIST VILLAGES SHOP**  
 Staff, Kohne manages the store and creates artwork and accessories in felt.

**11 GOIS VIEWPOINT**  
 Located on the EN2, it offers privileged views of the Village of Góis and Mount Rabadao.

**1 PORTELA DO VENTO - FAJÃO SCENIC ROAD**  
 The road between Portela do Vento and Fajão offers panoramic views to the south, where mountain ranges flank the valley through which the River Zêzere flows, as well as to the north, where the River Ceira flows. As you get closer to Fajão, the peaks of the Açor and Estrela Mountains come into view.

**2 FAJÃO SCHIST VILLAGES SHOP**

**3 SANTA LUZIA DAM VIEWPOINTS**  
 The road that skirts the dam wall offers two viewpoints, one on each side of the dam. Viewed from above the water level, the scene is one of rare beauty.

**4 CASAL DA LAPA MOUNTAIN BIKE CENTER**  
 4 routes with a total distance of 122 km.  
 40°05'29" N, 7°51'00" O

**5 SCENIC ROAD**  
 Before beginning its descent into Piodão, the road offers a unique balcony from which to appreciate the layout of the village and the arrangement of terraced fields from nearby villages.

**6 COLCURINHO VIEWPOINT**  
 This offers one of Portugal's most exceptional views. The 360° panorama incorporates the distant mountains of Bussaco, Caramulo, Gralheira, Madail, Montemor, Loomil, Estrela and other nearby elevations also integrated within the Açor Mountains.

