

# ONE MOUNTAIN, MANY WORLDS

Spanning a wide area and diversity of locations, the mountain paths are a network of walking trails that come together to form one of the best ways to get to know the region and Mountain Villages. The Bridges Trail, which starts in the mountain village of Cortes do Meio, takes visitors through the Cortes valley, down rural paths and tracks, past points of interest such as the many gorgeous natural pools. Along the route, the most notable points of interest are the many bridges and waterfalls that make up the landscape, as well as the historic testimony left behind by the villages of Bouça and Cortes do Meio.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

SOS European Emergency Number

**112**

SOS Environment and Territory

**808 200 520**

Cova da Beira Hospital Center - Tel.: 275 330 000

## OTHER CONTACTOS

Cortes do Meio Parish Council - 275 971 801

Covilhã Volunteer Firefighters - 275 310 310

Covilhã Police - 275 320 920

Meteorological Information - 218 447 000

## WHERE TO STAY / WHERE TO EAT

[www.cm-covilha.pt](http://www.cm-covilha.pt)

[www.aldeiasdemontanha.pt](http://www.aldeiasdemontanha.pt)

[www.freguesiacortesdomeio.pt](http://www.freguesiacortesdomeio.pt)

PROMOTOR:



COFINANÇADO POR:



PARCEIROS:



ROUTE REGISTERED AND APPROVED BY:



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PR17  
CVL

CAMINHOS  
DE MONTANHA

BRIDGES TRAIL - CORTES DO MEIO

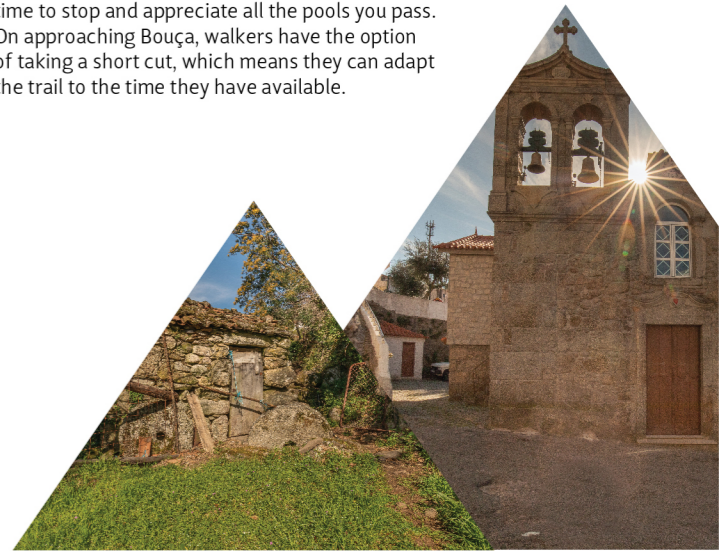


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COVILHÃ WALKING PATHS NETWORK

# BRIDGES TRAIL CORTES DO MEIO

**Discover the secrets of the Cortes Valley!**  
Bridges, waterfalls, olive presses, irrigation channels and natural pools all combine in a unique stream to provide visitors with a surprise at every turn as they explore this route. This route is accessible, though it may present some technical difficulties, particularly when the ground is wet, as it mostly winds its way along rural dirt paths and tracks. We recommend tackling this trail slowly, giving yourself time to stop and appreciate all the pools you pass. On approaching Bouça, walkers have the option of taking a short cut, which means they can adapt the trail to the time they have available.





Degree of difficulty:  
MEDIUM



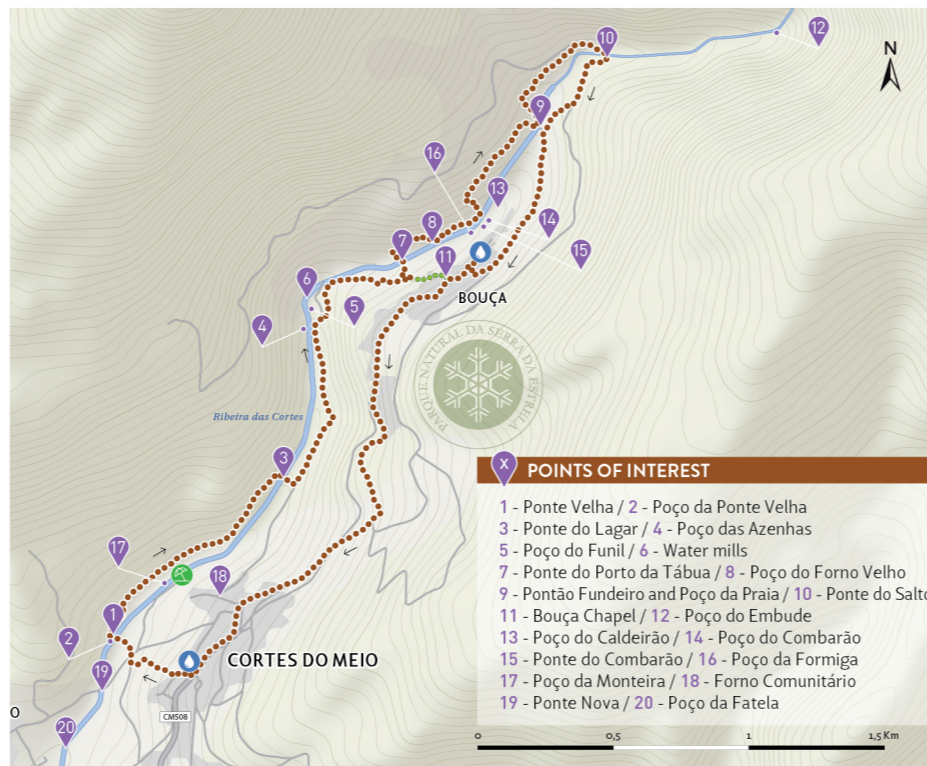
Approximate  
duration  
2h35



Type of route:  
SHORT CIRCULAR ROUTE

## DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

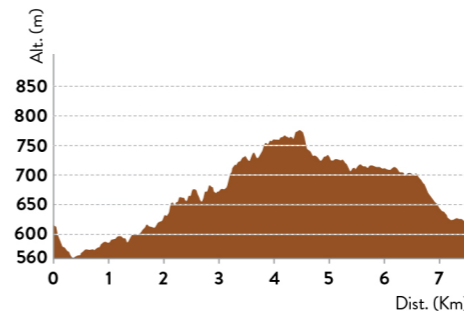
Setting off from the playground at the entrance to the parish of Cortes do Meio, the trail immediately starts to descend towards Ponte Velha and a natural pool with the same name. Crossing the river for the first time, walkers will find a trail that takes them all the way to the next pool, Poço da Monteiro, which is also where they'll find the Monteiro Leisure Area. As they follow the trail that runs alongside the stream, they will soon come to an old olive press and another beautiful natural pool. Crossing the stream once again, the trail heads down a rural path that then heads up the valley until it reaches the detour to the old watermills and one of the most striking features along this route, the Poço do Funil. Walkers should feel free to explore the site before continuing on the route along a footpath, temporarily moving away from the stream and closer to Bouça (a possible shortcut) before returning down to the stream and crossing it at Ponte do Porto da Tábua. Back on narrow footpaths now, the trail heads up the valley, arriving at the Poço do Forno Velho after temporarily moving away from the stream and before reaching the detour to Ponte do Combarão and the Formiga and Combarão pools (where walkers can also take a shortcut by heading up to Bouça). From here, the route keeps heading up the valley along ancient paths, past Pontão Fundeiro and Poço da Praia, before it reaches the highest point on the trail and starts to head back downhill to Ponte do Salto. As walkers start to make their way down the valley along the Bouça Velha forest path, they'll soon turn off onto a path that will take them close to Pontão Fundeiro where they will find a footpath to take them to Bouça. Walkers will find services such as bathrooms and a café in the town, in addition to fountains. The trail continues along paved roads, providing broader views over the valley, taking walkers back to Cortes do Meio, the starting point of this adventure.



- POINTS OF INTEREST**
- 1 - Ponte Velha / 2 - Poço da Ponte Velha
  - 3 - Ponte do Lagar / 4 - Poço das Azenhas
  - 5 - Poço do Funil / 6 - Water mills
  - 7 - Ponte do Porto da Tábua / 8 - Poço do Forno Velho
  - 9 - Pontão Fundeiro and Poço da Praia / 10 - Ponte do Salto
  - 11 - Bouça Chapel / 12 - Poço do Embude
  - 13 - Poço do Caldeirão / 14 - Poço do Combarão
  - 15 - Ponte do Combarão / 16 - Poço da Formiga
  - 17 - Poço da Monteiro / 18 - Forno Comunitário
  - 19 - Ponte Nova / 20 - Poço da Fatela



This route is along some technically difficult tracks.  
Take special precautions on rainy days and when the ground is wet.



## TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Type of route: Short circular route  
Recommended direction: Clockwise  
Start / End of route: Cortes do Meio  
Alternative end of route: Bouça  
Coordinates of start point: 40.254337, -7.580980  
Coordinates of alternative end of route:  
40.267016, -7.569800  
Length: 7,5 km  
Cumulative elevation gain: +400 / - 400  
Altitudes: min. 560 m / max. 776 m  
Approximate duration: 2h35  
Degree of difficulty: Medium  
Recommended season: all year  
Military map (IGEOE / 1:25000) n.º: 234, 235



THESE ARE "RESPONSIBLE TRAILS"  
WALKING PATHS. WE RECOMMEND USING  
THE APPLICATION OR PLATFORM  
TO REPORT ANY ANOMALIES.  
[www.responsibletrails.pt](http://www.responsibletrails.pt)

## CODE OF CONDUCT

- > Plan your route: make sure you have all the information you need in advance and that you have reached the end of the trail by nightfall
- > Do not start fires
- > Keep to signposted trails and respect all signs.
- > Be polite to locals and respect their customs and traditions.
- > Respect private property: close all gates and barriers you open.
- > Do not disturb livestock or damage crops.
- > Respect nature: do not remove and/or disturb wildlife and plants or damage geological formations.
- > Should you find an animal that is in distress or injured, try to get it to a wildlife centre.
- > Do not drop litter or leave any trace of your visit.
- > Always make sure you have with water, supplies, sun cream, suitable shoes and clothing and a basic first aid kit.
- > Take care when crossing roads.

## SIGN SYSTEM



## BRIDGES TRAIL - CORTES DO MEIO

- Detour
- Paved road
- Ⓧ Point of interest
- Water course
- Recommended direction
- 🌿 River Beach
- 💧 Fountain

