

## Rota Vicentina: the Fisherman's Trail, Portugal

This marked hiking trail of about 130 km continuously follows the Portuguese Atlantic coast. South of the capital Lisbon. The path, the Rota, actually consists of two intertwined overlapping paths: the Historic Trail and the Fisherman's Trail. We walked one stage of the Historical Road and then the Fisherman's Trail, until we reached the trail's end point: the Cabo de São Vicente. The most southwestern tip of Europe.

Here, on the Cabo, it was long believed, is where the end of the world can be seen. However, that later turned out not to be so. But the view is no less so.

It is said that the Fishing Trail is based on the old footpaths between the villages and the best fishing spots. But that could also be a romanticized or popularized version. Either way: the route passes through a mighty, imposing and silent coastal strip with constantly changing views of the Atlantic Ocean.



### Landscape

It is hard for me to describe the beauty of this route. What makes this route so beautiful? It has to do with extremes. Imagine: you walk almost constantly at altitude, "over" the cliffs, on narrow paths, with lots of loose sand, lots of low vegetation in full color - and that's only putting it mildly. Say: explosions. Birds hover over you, the temperature, especially in the spring is bearable, say delicious. Paradiacial? Who knows.

After which the sounds of the ocean grab your attention. Ferocious pounding waves on the granite rocks and a moment later a - there it is again - paradiacial beach, enclosed, the ocean seems to have no influence. Seems.

Sometimes you can descend, reasonably safely, dozens of meters to such a beach and look along the

impressive rock formations slowly up, only to feel very small and tiny for a moment in this overwhelming environment.

And to continue your way across the beach.



Small streams coming out of the rocks via subterranean passages.....that made "deep" gullies in the beach sand. If you were a kid then....

It's that you have to move on, but otherwise....

A good reason to walk on anyway is to look for a delicious meal in one of the springtime sleepy blue and white villages. *The bacalhau! Cod. Portions of the outer category! Partes da categoria externa! Coma saboroso!*

Portugal and the sea. Know that it was not so long ago that Spain and Portugal together owned half the overseas world.

But there are other websites about that.

- Total length of the Fishermen's Trail: about 130 km;
- recommended starting point of the Fisherman's Path: Porto Covo;
- difficulty: good physical condition, especially walking through loose sandy tracks.'







