

Amid platbands and olive groves

ROUTE

- 1 Rotunda da Vela ("Sail Roundabout")
 - 2 Poço Sinagoga (Synagogue Well)
 - 3 Main church of Santo Estevão
 - 4 Museum of Cooperativa de Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo
 - 5 Main Church of Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo
 - 6 Porto Carvalhoso
 - 7 Alcañia do Cume
- Return by the same route or:
- 8 Umbria
- Go straight ahead or:
- 9 Eiras Altas
 - 10 Fonte das Cabrias
 - 11 Séquia/Gilão River

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Route covering approximately 65 km





was opened in 1875 and deepened in 1926. This is just one of the eight wells ordered sunk by the parish council during the 19th century to provide a water supply for the population. Next to the well, as indeed was the case with all of them, were stone troughs; each day, the farmers would bring their livestock here to drink, first thing in the morning and at the end of the day.



Public well built in 1875

When you are ready to get back on the road, head towards Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo (look for the sign next to the pharmacy, pointing you to the A22). When you come to a fork in the road, take the road on your left. Keep going towards Monte Agudo, admiring the scenery as you go. Typical of the Algarve, it comprises traditional dryland orchards with ancient carob, olive, almond and fig trees. According to the records, this was prime hunting land and, as a rural area, the farmers made their living from the production of carob, almonds, olive oil (there were once as many as eight olive presses in the parish), wine, wood, charcoal and limestone. The typical houses of the transitional barrocal area, dotted around the hills, had the particularity of having an oven for baking bread and a cistern to store the water used by the household.

When you reach the crossroads (“4 Estradas”/ “four roads”), turn towards São Brás de Alportel. Along the way, on your right-hand side (Vale da Assêca), you will see a number of tile factories. The soil here is rich in chalk and clay, resulting in the development of handicrafts and the ceramics industry. Various materials used in the Algarve’s Mediterranean-style buildings are produced here, including various types of tiles and bricks. You will arrive first at Fonte do Bispo and then

Aerial view of Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo (left)



Tile manufacturer

Santa Catarina. The village, whose patron saint is Saint Catherine, is surrounded by fig, olive and almond trees and orchards that make a significant contribution to the production of olive oil, liqueurs and brandies.

Museum of Cooperativa
Agrícola de Santa
Catarina (right)

📍 **Museum of
Cooperativa Agrícola
de Santa Catarina
da Fonte do Bispo**
☎️ +351 281971121
📞 Contact the
Cooperativa Agrícola

On the right-hand side, at the entrance to Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo, you will find and exhibition centre, 📍 **Museum of Cooperativa Agrícola de Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo** where an old industrial olive press has been preserved. Here, you can learn about the history of the olive industry, the olive oil manufacturing process and the functionality of the production chain. Head towards the village centre. Park the car and go for a stroll along the narrow streets.

Admire the 📍 **Main Church of Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo**, which dates from the 16th century. It was initially built in Manueline style and later combined with the Renaissance model. In the 18th century, the remodelling work carried out gave the façade a Baroque-style finish. A highlight inside the three-nave church is the canvas “Juízo Final” (“Last Judgement”).

If you want to explore the authentic uplands, drive to the end of the street called “Rua 1°



Main Church of Santa
Catarina da Fonte
do Bispo

Uplands (below)



de Maio”, turn right towards São Brás de Alportel, and about 100 metres farther on, head towards

6 Porto Carvalhoso. In this direction, the drive takes you through some magnificent scenery.

Along the way, you will see signs indicating some typical upland hamlets, including Alqueivinho, Malhada do Nobre, Bemparece, Água de Tábuas (where you can enjoy a stop in the picnic park), Cruzes, Malhada do Judeu, Alcorvel, Eira do Lobo, Funchal, Amendoeira and Alcaria Fria. If you fancy exploring some of them, go ahead, but then come back the same way towards **7 Alcaria do Cume**, the highest point in the municipality of Tavira, at 535 metres. Here, pause for a rest and admire the panoramic view. Return along the same road, until you reach Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo, or continue, for about 400 metres. There, turn right and head down a dirt track by way of Carvalhal, Malhada do Rico, Eira do Lobo and **8 Umbria**, where there is a picnic park, and turn left towards Morenos. Before returning to the N270 road towards Tavira, choose one of these options:



Orange orchards

after approximately 1,400 metres, turn towards

9 Eiras Altas, and admire the magnificent view, or keep going straight ahead. Both will take you to the N270 road, where you should turn towards Tavira.

Head back towards the city until you come to the 4 Estradas crossroads and turn left towards Asseca/Cachopo; 3.3 kilometres farther on, on your right, you will come to the **10 Fonte das Cabras** (Goats' Fountain), built in 1935 and reconstructed in 1963. This fountain is noteworthy in that it has never run dry, even in years of severe drought. This is a good place to pause for a rest. Keep going alongside the **11 River Séqua/Gilão**, enjoying the sight of the countryside covered with orange and fig trees.

In the parish of Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo, enjoy some walking routes.

More information:
www.in-loco.pt/pt/percursos-pedestres



Walking trail

Alcaria do Cume
(below)

