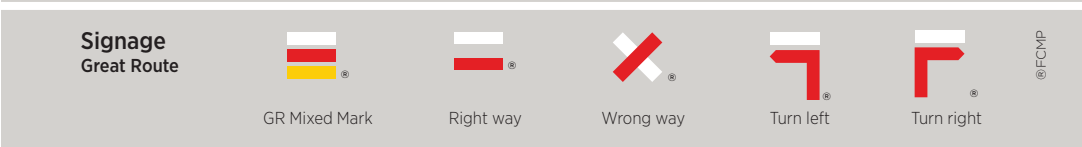


Type of route Linear / Recommended season Year-round

Section Bussaco - Mealhada	Section Bussaco - Mortágua	Section Bussaco - Penacova
<b>Extension</b> 11,6 km	<b>Extension</b> 22,1 km	<b>Extension</b> 23,1 km
<b>Duration</b> 3h20	<b>Duration</b> 6h15	<b>Duration</b> 6h45
<b>Total ascent/descent</b> + 65 / - 390 m	<b>Total ascent/descent</b> + 220 / - 510 m	<b>Total ascent/descent</b> + 335 / - 665 m
<b>Height</b> max/min: 385 / 56 m	<b>Height</b> max/min: 413 / 88 m	<b>Height</b> max/min: 566 / 54 m
<b>Difficulty</b> Trail Type  1	<b>Difficulty</b> Trail Type  1	<b>Difficulty</b> Trail Type  1
Physical Effort  3	Physical Effort  4	Physical Effort  4
Adversity  2	Adversity  2	Adversity  3
Orientation  2	Orientation  2	Orientation  2

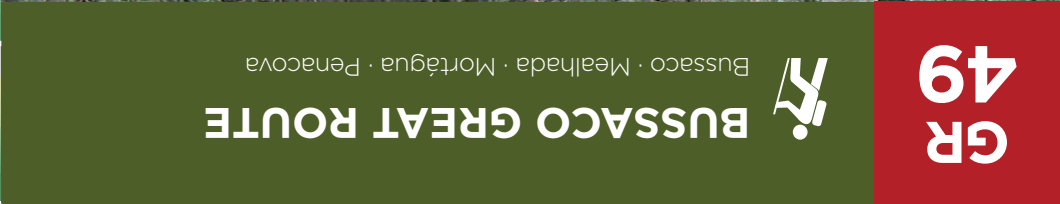
The **level of difficulty** is expressed in 4 different categories, rated 1 to 5 (1: easy; 5: hard) [more information](#)



### Special cares & Rules 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  
geral@cim-regiaodecoimbra.pt

**Emergency 112**  
**Information**  
Penacova Tourism Office  
Largo Alberto Leitão, 5  
3360-191 Penacova  
Tel. 239 470 300  
geral@cm-penacova.pt  
SCHEDULE 09h-13h / 14h-18h  
Closed on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Easter Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and December 25<sup>th</sup>

**Mealhada Tourism Office and Loja das 4 Maravilhas**  
Parque da Cidade - Av. Fonte Nova  
3050 -379 Mealhada  
Tel. 231 281 372  
maravilhasmealhada@gmail.com  
SCHEDULE everyday  
10h-12h30 / 13h30-18h  
Closed on January 1<sup>st</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup> and December 25<sup>th</sup>

**Loja da Fundação Mata do Bussaco**  
Mata Nacional do Bussaco  
3050-261 Luso  
Tel. 231 937 000  
turismo@fmb.pt  
Information Office  
SCHEDULE 9h-13h / 14h-19h

**Mortágua Tourism Office**  
tel. 231 927 464 · 231 927 460  
turismo@cm-mortagua.pt  
SCHEDULE monday to friday  
9h00-12h30 / 14h00-17h30

**Further information**

**Sponsored by**  
CIM|RC  
COMUNIDADE INTERMUNICIPAL  
REGIÃO DE COIMBRA

**penacova**  
Município

**Mealhada**  
Município

**mortágua**  
município

**Co-financed by**  
CENTRO2020  
PORTUGAL 2020  
UNião Europeia  
Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional

**Route registered and approved by**  
FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DE LA RANDONNÉE PÉDESTRE  
EW ERA FERP

The Great Route of Bussaco is a linear, star-shaped trail, totalling 56 km, with three separate branches, centred on the Bussaco National Forest. The branches consist of the sections Mealhada - Bussaco (12 km), Mortágua - Bussaco (21 km) and Penacova - Bussaco (23 km). This route, sponsored by CIM-RC, extends through the municipalities of Mealhada, Penacova and Mortágua and highlights the area’s natural potential based on the exuberant biodiversity of the Bussaco National Forest.

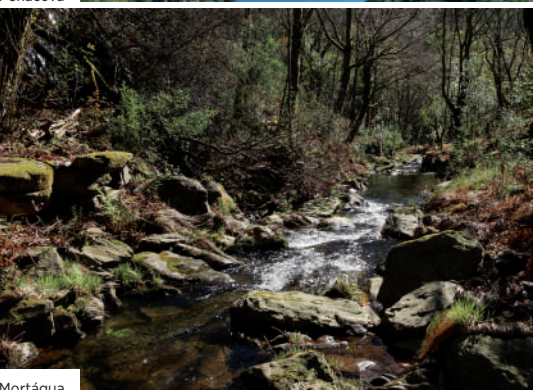
The Bussaco National Forest is a space of rare beauty and rich biodiversity, a true oasis in the Central Region for lovers of nature tourism, with one of the best collections of tree species in Europe. With 105 ha and about 550 metres above sea-level, the Bussaco National Forest, part of the Mediterranean Biogeographical Region, is strongly influenced by the Atlantic. This gives it a microclimate conducive to the development of an extraordinarily diverse flora and fauna due to mild temperatures, high rainfall and frequent morning mists. This climatic mix, together with the differences in solar exposure on its slopes, allows visitors to enjoy a typically Mediterranean evergreen vegetation (southern slope) and deciduous vegetation typical of temperate climates (north slope).

Within this exuberant green spot, comprising four landscape areas, the Arboretum (about 65 % of the forest's area), the Gardens and the Valley of Ferns, the Pinhal do Marquês pinewood and the relic Native Forest (Mock Privet Forest or *Ader-nal*), a large number of remarkable trees stand out. Also worthy of note are the Palace Hotel do Bussaco (a 19th-century Neo-Manueline building), with its “Jardim Novo” garden; the Stations of the Cross, the only one in the world built on the same scale as in Jerusalem, 3 km long and with 20 stations (Arrest and Passion of Christ); the Santa Cruz Convent, dating from 1628; the Military Museum; the monument commemorat-ing the Battle of Bussaco; the viewpoints, espe-cially the one at Cruz Alta (550m); and others.

For the traveller, the high point of this great route in the Bussaco National Forest is the discovery of a region from one of three different perspec-tives, depending on which branch is taken. If you choose Mealhada - Bussaco, enjoy the vine-yards of Bairrada and discover the cellars where the red, white and sparkling wines are produced. The sparkling wine is much appreciated as an accompaniment to the most typical local deli-cacy - Bairrada roast suckling pig. Also on this route, discover the town of Luso, known for its thermal spa and its mineral water.

In the Mortágua-Bussaco section, the tourist is invited to walk through stumps and villages, whom tell stories of napoleonic troops passing through the territory, but also, enjoy a faunistic and floristic diversity, provided by the streams found along the way.

The Penacova - Mealhada route allows travellers to discover something different, the mountain landscape of the Serra do Bussaco range.





Entrances /  
Points of Interest

11,6 km  
1 Bussaco  
Information panel

2 Mealhada  
Information panel

22,1 km  
1 Bussaco  
Information panel

3 Mortágua  
Information panel

23,1 km  
1 Bussaco  
Information panel

4 Penacova  
Information panel

Key

GR49 Bussaco Great Route Linear

CNE Spirituality Natural Route  
Linear

GR48 Mondego Great Route Linear

GR51 Alva Great Route Linear

Livraria Winter Detour Linear

Portuguese Way of St. James  
Linear

PR1 PRS Serra do Carvalho Route  
Linear

PR2 PRS Ribeira de Poiares Route  
Linear

TDAN Remarkable Trees Route  
Circular

PILM Livraria do Mondego  
Interpretative Route  
Linear

Main Roads

Water Lines

Protected Areas

