



# SÃO PEDRO

The NATURE and CORK OAK FOREST INTERPRETATION CENTER







THE NATURE AND CORK OAK FOREST INTERPRETATION CENTER is located at the highest point of Serra de Portel - S. Pedro (422 m), in the heart of the mountain range. A place of great environmental and landscape interest, where “we can find characteristics of what was an ancient Mediterranean forest. (...) where we can still see (...) floral communities that represent what would have been the original forest. Namely the holm oaks and cork oaks which, associated with arbutus, spanish lavender, myrtle, rosemary or rock rose, compose a colorful and aromatic landscape”(Nuno Lecoq). It is this natural wealth that surrounds S. Pedro, a privileged viewpoint to observe the mountains, the village of Portel and the oak forest, which can be seen in 360°.

Regarding historic heritage, S. Pedro stands out for the existence of two chapels dedicated to the Patron Saint of the village of Portel, founded between the 15th and 17th centuries.





## S. PEDRO'S TEMPLES

Chapel and Church - 16th - 18th

The current chapel dates from 1624 and came to replace the primitive, fourteenth century chapel. The church was founded in the 16th century and rebuilt after a fire in the 2nd half of the 17th century. In the 18th century, it was decorated with baroque elements, visible in the gilded altarpieces, painting, furniture and pulpit. The mural painting that covers the dome of the chancel stands out.



S. Pedro is the patron saint of the village of Portel and his image, a beautiful granite sculpture dating from the 15th-16th century, is the object of great popular worship.





THE NATURE AND CORK OAK FOREST INTERPRETATION CENTER is a space for the promotion, dissemination, preservation and protection of the oak forest and Serra de Portel.

The Center has a set of skills and spaces with different functions, with conditions for welcoming and carrying out activities that allow the discovery and knowledge of the mountain's landscapes; the historical and cultural heritage of Portel:

The Multifunction Reception Center offers the possibility of accommodation preferably for groups of researchers, teachers and students of all levels. It has single and multiple rooms (dormitories), a large common room and kitchen.





The Center for Studies and Observation allows the development of various actions in the area of conservation and enhancement of the natural and landscape heritage. It has two training/conference rooms, one of which is the Auditorium of the Church of S. Pedro, an ample and beautiful space with conditions for holding cultural and scientific events.



S. Pedro offers excellent natural conditions and equipment for astronomical observation using telescopes. Portel is one of the municipalities that is part of the Dark Sky Alqueva Reserve, a classification that confirmed the unique characteristics of the sky in this area of Alentejo.

In S. Pedro the visitor is dazzled by the wide horizons of the surrounding landscape, the tranquility of nature, where the mountains give shape to this territory and the cork oak forest is the value that is important to know and discover through the offer of nature routes.



S. PEDRO - Nature and Cork Oak Forest Interpretation Center  
 GPS: 38.332282,-7.716591 (CM1120 - 4 Km from Portel)

Informations: [turismo@portel.pt](mailto:turismo@portel.pt) | [www.portel.pt](http://www.portel.pt)