

## Ribeira de Algibre

<http://www.algarvewildlife.com/walksc-algibre.php>

This walk takes you along a lovely river valley that is full of flowers from January, when the almond trees bloom, until well into the summer.

### Directions – Latitude: 37.183474 Longitude: – 8.168473

From the A22 toll road take the Albufeira exit (Junction 9) and follow signs towards Albufeira (staying on this road until you see Paderne signed ) and then to Paderne, taking the N395 in a northerly direction. Continue along the N395, passing through Purgatorio, until you reach Paderne, and then drive through the village. Paderne is one of the better-signed villages in the Algarve! About 1km outside the village you will see a turn to the left signed Moinho Novo – take this turn and continue for approximately 3km along the M1176 until you come to a sharp, right-hand bend in the road. At this junction there is a track to the left and a tarmac road straight ahead. Take the road ahead, not the track to the left. If you start to climb a hill you have driven too far. After about 300m you will come to an open area where several cars can be parked. Park here and continue ahead on foot passing a house on the right.

A circular route takes you up onto the plateau above the river and through disused farmland which is wildlife-rich and well worth the effort if you don't mind a steep scramble on the way back down to the river valley. A shorter version of the walk, which enables you to see much of the scenery of the river valley and all of the orchids listed below with the exception of the Conical Orchid *Neotinea tridentata* subsp. *conica* which occurs on the plateau overlooking the valley, involves walking down to a waterfall just beyond two old ruined farm buildings on the left of the track (about 2km) and then retracing your steps to where your vehicle is parked.

### List of species

*Ophrys scolopax* subsp. *apiformis* – Woodcock Orchid

*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *lutea* – Yellow Bee Orchid

*Ophrys bombyliflora* – Bumblebee Orchid

*Ophrys speculum* subsp. *speculum* – Mirror Orchid

*Ophrys speculum* subsp. *lusitanica*

*Ophrys fusca* subsp. *fusca* – Sombre Bee Orchid

*Ophrys omegaifera* subsp. *dyris* – Omega Ophrys

*Cephalanthera longifolia* – Sword-leaved Helleborine

*Epipactis* spp.

*Orchis italica* – Naked ManOrchid

*Neotinea maculata* – Dense-flowered Orchid

*Neotinea tridentata* subsp. *conica* – Conical Orchid

*Orchis anthropophora* – Man Orchid

*Serapias parviflora* – Small-flowered Tongue Orchid

*Spiranthes spiralis* – Autumn Lady's-tresses (in November)