



Cachenas

Help us protect biodiversity!

A part of Melgaço's area is located in Portugal's most important preserved area, Peneda-Gerês National Park, which is recognised as World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.

HIKING & DISCOVERING

Branda da Aveleira route is located on a mountain plateau, at the northern end of Serra da Peneda. The route begins next to a small and pleasant lake.

The toponym "Branda" derives from "veranda" which means to spend the summer; therefore, it is a temporary summer place, whose origin is part of a process of transhumance typical of agro-pasture societies. Shepherds (Brandeiros) lived here from the end of spring to the end of summer. During their stay, they would build small shelters called "cardenhas", very rustic granite buildings, with a townhouse and a stable for livestock on the ground floor, where they stayed overnight. You follow a path flanked by loose stone walls, commonly called "canejas", which limit private properties. In one of these properties, (about 2.5 ha), you can see an innovative and recent project Soalheiro, "first brand of Melgaço alvarinho", planted: **the alvarinho vineyard at the highest altitude in Portugal (A)**, right at the gates of Peneda-Gerês National Park, at more than 1.100 metres of altitude. The forest path then leads you to a pine forest and, close by, you find **Bataiteiro Capstone (B)**, a reasonably large megalithic monument, with significant structural remains: the dolmen chamber, with seven pillars. On the inner surface of the headboard pillar, faint traces of engravings are detected. As you walk through the

extensive mountain landscape, you see a pond where numerous native breed animals flock to quench their thirst. After a short ascent, you descend to the starting point, crossing the Branda.

Fauna: Iberian wolf (*Canis Lupus Signatus*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)



Lobo Ibérico



Erva-das-sete-sangrias

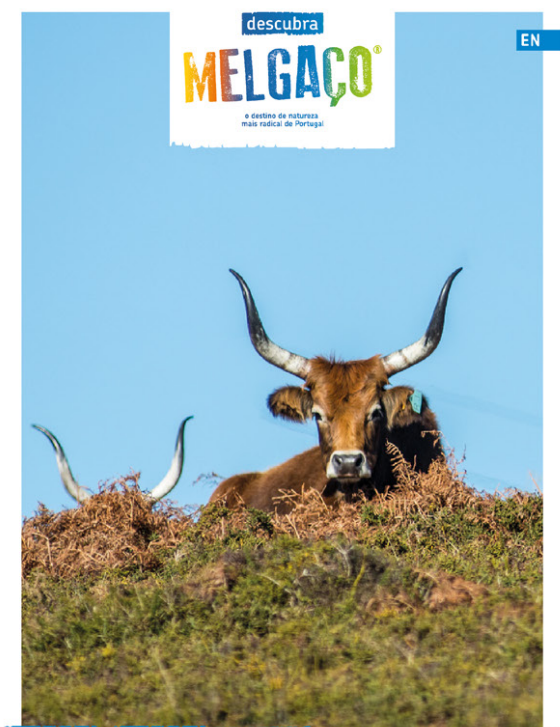
Flora: gorse (*Ulex minor*), genista florida (*Genista florida*), shrubby gromwell (*Glandora prostrata*)



Branda da Aveleira



Did you know Melgaço is a sustainable tourist destination? It is a model of excellence for tourists and of well-being for locals.



descubra

MELGAÇO
o destino de natureza
mais radical de Portugal

EN

PRECAUTIONS DURING THE TRAIL



Wear sensible clothes and shoes: mountain boots, a hat and a raincoat.



Do not disturb natural habitats.



Respect the signposted trail and pay attention to the markings.



Do not litter, take the rubbish to the appropriate container.



Respect private property. Make sure all gates are closed.



Do not make fire and do not throw cigarettes on the floor.



Leave nature unspoilt: do not collect plants, animals or rocks.



Do not start the trail under severe weather conditions such as fog and snow.



Avoid walking alone in the mountain and always carry water.



When there is high or very high risk of wildfires, **access might be limited.**



Be polite to locals.



Beware of cattle. Do not approach litters or cubs



(*) O percurso pode ser efetuado em qualquer altura do ano, mas devem ser tomadas algumas precauções no verão, devido às elevadas temperaturas, e no inverno, devido às baixas temperaturas, possibilidade de nevoeiros e queda de neve e acumulação de água em alguns troços.

TRAIL SIGNPOSTING



Short Route



Right way



Wrong way



Go left



Go right



Short route that temporarily follows a Long Route marking.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Melgaço City Hall
+351 251 410 100

Peneda Gerês National Park
Porta PNP Lamas de Mouro
+351 251 465 010

Melgaço Firefighters
+351 251 402 599

Melgaço Police
+351 251 404 960

Emergency Line
112

Pedestrian route registered and approved by:



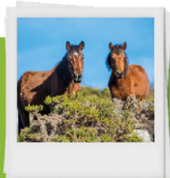
MELGAÇO'S HIKING TRAIL NETWORK

PR 14
MLG AVELEIRA

Aveleira 6.1 Km - Circular Easy

AND REMEMBER...

Take only memories and photos. Do not leave anything but footsteps.



Promoting organisation:



discovermelgaço.pt

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Praca da República, 133
4960-567 Melgaço
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PENEDA GERÊS NATIONAL PARK PORTA PNP LAMAS DE MOURO

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Co-funded by:



HIKING TRAIL NETWORK



- 1. Lamas de Mouro - Cerveira 15,8 km
- 2. Castro Laboreiro - Lamas de Mouro 6,5 km
- 3. Castrejo 16,7 km
- 4. Interpretativo de Castro Laboreiro 5,2 km
- 5. Megalitismo 25,7 km
- 6. Rio Laboreiro 8,1 km
- 7. Inverneiras 6,0 km
- 8. Lamas de Mouro - Dorna 11,9 km
- 9. Interpretativo de Lamas de Mouro 4,4 km
- 10. Lamas de Mouro - Parada do Monte 9,3 km
- 11. Rio Mouro 18,4 km
- 12. Brandeiro 16,2 km
- 13. Vale Glaciador do Vez 4,3 km
- 14. Aveleira 6,1 km
- 15. Curro da Velha 7,3 km
- 16. Transumância 10,3 km

TECHNICAL DATA

PR Circular

Starting point: Aveleira
41°59'41.0"N 8°16'48.7"W

Ending Point: Aveleira
41°59'41.0"N 8°16'48.7"W

Distance: 6,1 km

Duration: 02h45 | - | -

Route Type: Landscape-Cultural

Difficulty: Easy

Recommended season: All year (*)

Highest altitude: 1172 meters

Lowest altitude: 986 meters

Positive elevation gain: 215 meters

Negative elevation gain: 215 meters



TILE KILN
Traditional kiln for handmade tile production. It is known that, as a rule, they were located outside the village to prevent fires, and because of the need for more free space.



CARDENHAS
Small shelters where Brandeiros (Shepherds) spent the night. Very rustic granite buildings, with a townhouse and a stable for livestock on the ground floor.



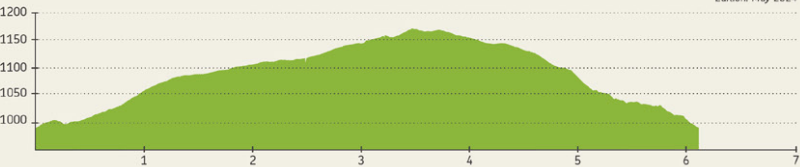
BATATEIRO CAPSTONE
A megalithic monument of reasonable dimensions, with significant structural remains, in terms of the dolmenic chamber, made up of seven shafts.



ALVARINHO VINEYARD AT THE HIGHEST ALTITUDE
Innovative project to produce Alvarinho grapes at high altitude (more than 1.100 meters). The grapes that grow in Branda are therefore not just the promise of a new wine but of a future resistance of the variety.



Elevation profile:



CAPTION

- Starting point
- Trail marking
- Point of interest
- Milestone
- Primary roads
- Secondary roads
- Tertiary roads
- Preferred direction

How to read milestones:

XIV 1

Identification of the trail

Kilometre

Military Map of Portugal, sheets 9, 1/25000. IGeoE

250 m