



Parish Church of Castro Laboreiro

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

This route starts in the village of **Castro Laboreiro**, at the intersection of the church (next to the information panel) and goes towards the **Parish Church (A)**.

Next to it **parish church** (although this is not its original placement), you can observe the **stone pillory (B)**, built in 1560 coinciding with the attribution of the new charter to Castro Laboreiro.

Along an old path, flanked by an important oak grove, you ascend towards **Branda da Portela**, located at the gates of the emblematic Castro Laboreiro plateau. Cattle and people used to travel on this path, between the plateau and the valley (occupied in the coldest and harshest months of winter). A stern but efficient lifestyle in the management of natural resources.

Upon reaching the highest point of the route (1,100 m altitude) a natural viewpoint flourishes in the middle of the **granite blocks (C)**. It allows you to appreciate the Laboreiro River valley, the sharp peaks of Serra da Peneda and the castle of Castro Laboreiro: rocky style, medieval era, currently classified as a National Monument and first fortress of the "Raia Seca do Alto Minho" (Alto Minho land border). These are the "ingredients" that make of this one of the most beautiful sceneries in this route.

The descent into the valley allows you to take a glimpse to new landscapes, when you look over the walls and see the beautiful meadows.

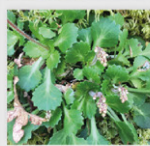
In winter, the meadow is filed – a thin sheet of water is permanently poured over it to keep the temperature above 0° C, thus preventing frost that would burn the grass.

Continue to **Veigas (D)** where you can wander through history through **Veigas bridge**. Shortly after, the route ends near the starting point.

Fauna: Iberian Schreiber's green lizard (*Lacerta schreiberi*), European robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), European badger (*Meles meles*)



Lagarto-de-água



Saxifraga spatulada

Flora:
Pyrenean oak (*Quercus pyrenaica*), St. Patrick's cabbage (*Saxifraga spathularis*), Turk cap's lily (*Lilium martagon*)



"Fumeiro" (smoked pork meat) – one of Melgaço and Castro Laboreiro premium products



Castreja and bread

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

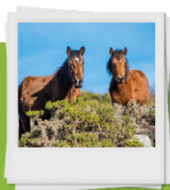
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MELGAÇO'S HIKING TRAIL NETWORK
**PR 4
MLG** **INTERPRETIVE OF
CASTRO LABOREIRO**

Castro Laboreiro → 5,2 Km - Circular → Easy

PRECAUTIONS DURING THE TRAIL

- Wear sensible clothes and shoes:** mountain boots, a hat and a raincoat.
- Respect the signposted trail** and pay attention to the markings.
- Respect private property.** Make sure all gates are closed.
- Leave nature unspoilt:** do not collect plants, animals or rocks.
- Avoid walking alone** in the mountain and always carry water.
- Be polite** to locals.
- Do not disturb natural habitats.**
- Do not litter,** take the rubbish to the appropriate container.
- Do not make fire** and do not throw cigarettes on the floor.
- Do not start the trail** under severe weather conditions such as fog and snow.
- When there is high or very high risk of wildfires, access might be limited.**
- Beware of cattle.** Do not approach litters or cubs.

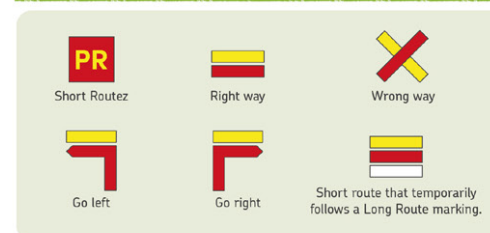


AND REMEMBER...

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

(*) The route can be travelled at any time of year, but some precautions should be taken in summer due to the high temperatures, and in winter due to the low temperatures, the possibility of fog and snowfall and the accumulation of water in some sections.

TRAIL SIGNPOSTING



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:



Promoting organisation:



discovermelgaço.pt

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

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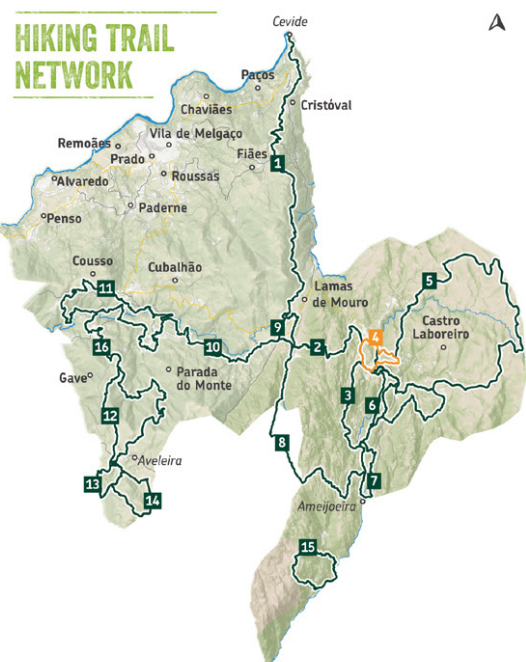
PENEDA GERÊS NATIONAL PARK PORTA PNP LAMAS DE MOURO

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Co-funded by:



HIKING TRAIL NETWORK



- 1. Lamas de Mouro - Cevide 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 Glaciado 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: Vila - Castro Laboreiro
42°01'49.9"N 8°09'33.6"W

Ending Point: Vila - Castro Laboreiro
42°01'49.9"N 8°09'33.6"W

Distance: 5,2 km

Duration: 02h00 | - | -

Route Type: Landscape-Cultural

Difficulty: Easy

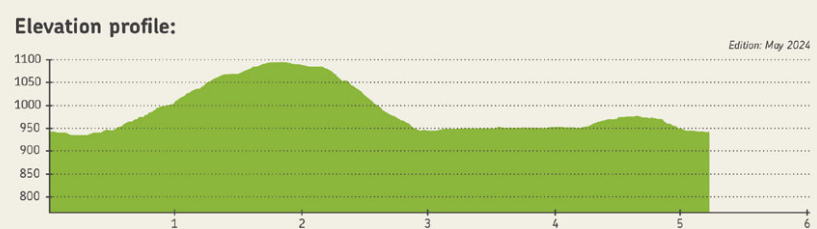
Recommended season: All year (*)

Highest altitude: 1096 meters

Lowest altitude: 934 meters

Positive elevation gain: 223 meters

Negative elevation gain: 223 meters



CAPTION

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

How to read milestones:

IV

1

- Identification of the trail
- Kilometre

Military Map of Portugal, sheets 4, 1/25000, IGeoE

250 m