



Cachena

**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

The Brandeiro route is located at the northern end of Serra da Peneda. It involves part of the territory of Gave and Parada do Monte, two villages with a strong tradition of transhumance (seasonal displacement of animals to places that offer better conditions during part of the year).

Brandeiros (name given to shepherds) climbed with their animals, leaving the lower altitude fields available to grow corn and beans.

The route starts at **Branda da Aveleira (A)**, next to a small and pleasant lake and then goes, on the right (preferred direction), towards Mourim.

After crossing the asphalted road, you cross Chã do Alto do Corisco (which gives its name to what was, at the time of its construction, the largest wind farm in Minho) from where you can see the extensive mountains of Portugal and Galicia and the wide valley of Minho, whose River sculpted and drew the terrain of this mountain region. From an altitude peak of almost 1,200 meters, you descend to 950 metres where you enjoy and rest in one of the three Brandas of the mountain. Speaking of **Mourim (B)**, as in other Brandas, we remember the ancestors who dedicated themselves to building small stone houses that survive the harsh winters and "refresh the soul" in the summer. In a beautiful landscape, rich in pleasant green and

crystal-clear waters, the trees build the refinement of a well-ventilated place, where breathing is simple.

You then follow the old path that connected Mourim to Parada do Monte, along which you cross an **oak grove (C)**, extremely beautiful and of natural value, which invites you to take a deep breath. After the steep descent, you cross a small stream and again reach the road that will lead you through paths full of stories, to **Branda De Covelo (D)** where you can also enjoy a breath-taking landscape and a set of typical harmoniously framed mountain buildings.

Once you visit this picturesque Branda, the path leads you back to the starting point (Branda Da Aveleira).

**Fauna:** Eurasian bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), ocellated lizard (*Lacerta lepida*)



Sardão



Açafrão-bravo

**Flora:** Silver birch (*Betula alba*), Pyrenean oak (*Quercus pirenayca*)

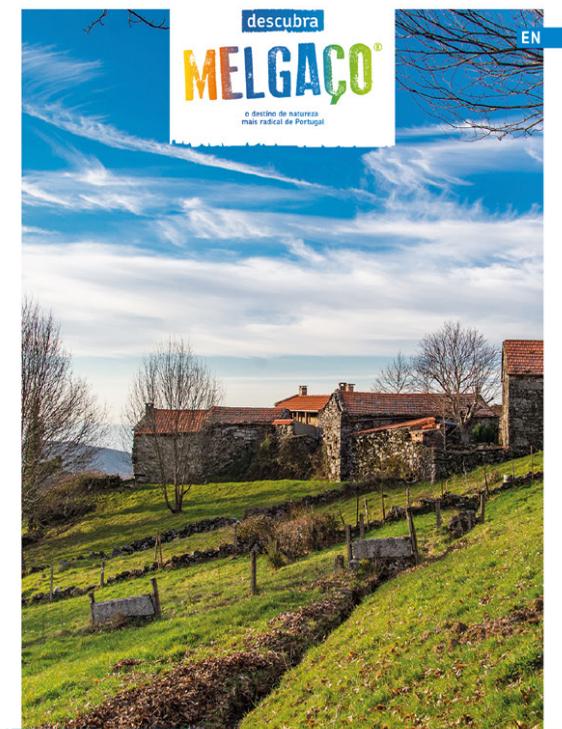


Branda de Covelo



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

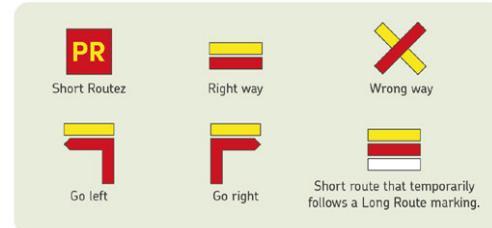
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## PRECAUTIONS DURING THE TRAIL

- 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

(\*) 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
- Melgaço Firefighters**  
+351 251 402 599
- Peneda Gerês National Park**  
Porta PNPGLamas de Mouro  
+351 251 465 010
- Melgaço Police**  
+351 251 404 960
- Emergency Line**  
112

Pedestrian route registered and approved by:



Promoting organisation:



TOURIST INFORMATION  
OFFICE

Praça da República, 133  
4960-567 Melgaço  
T. +351 251 402 440  
E. turismo@cm-melgaço.pt

PENEDA GERÊS NATIONAL PARK  
PORTA PNPGLAMAS DE MOURO

Lugar de Porto Ribeiro  
4960-170 Lamas de Mouro  
T. +351 251 402 440  
E. portadelamas@cm-melgaço.pt

Co-funded by:



MELGAÇO'S HIKING TRAIL NETWORK

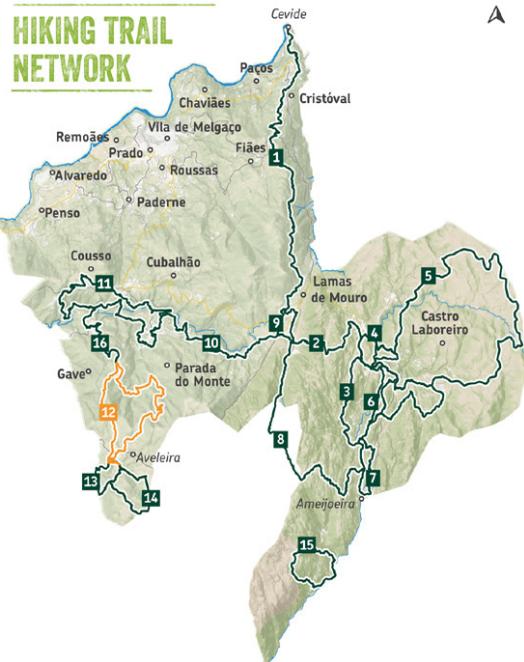
PR 12  
MLG **BRANDEIRO**

## AND REMEMBER...

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



# 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 Glaciar do Vez 4,3 km
- 14. Azeleira 6,1 km
- 15. Curro da Velha 7,3 km
- 16. Transumância 10,3 km

## TECHNICAL DATA

- PR Circular**
- Starting point:** Azeleira  
41°59'41.0"N 8°16'48.7"W
- Ending Point:** Azeleira  
41°59'41.0"N 8°16'48.7"W
- Distance:** 16,2 km
- Duration:** 06h00 | - | -
- Route Type:** Landscape-Cultural
- Difficulty:** Difficult
- Recommended season:** All year (\*)
- Highest altitude:** 1166 meters
- Lowest altitude:** 782 meters
- Positive elevation gain:** 740 meters
- Negative elevation gain:** 740 meters

### Elevation profile:



**BRANDA DE COVELO**  
One of the two Brandas in the parish of Gave. You can enjoy absolutely stunning landscape, a set of typical and almost unchanged mountain buildings.



**OAK GROVES**  
Extremely breath-taking nature. Take a deep breath.



**BRANDA DE MOURIM**  
Located at about 950 metres altitude, it is one of the three Brandas of Parada do Monte. Speaking of Mourim, the memory of the ancestors is pierced into the construction of small stone houses that survive the harsh winters and "refresh the soul" in summer. In a beautiful landscape, rich in pleasant green and crystal-clear waters, the trees build the refinement of a well-ventilated place, where breathing is simple.



**BRANDA DA AZELEIRA**  
One of the two Brandas in the parish of Gave. Originally used for grazing cattle in the summer, it is now a tourist village. A favourable location to explore vast architectural, cultural, natural, archaeological, historical, and geological heritage. Traces of the ice age can be seen here: the Glacier Valley of the Vez.

GAVE

PARADA DO MONTE

Baldosa

Military Map of Portugal, sheets 4 and 9, 1/25000. IGeoE

500 m

### CAPTION

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

### How to read milestones:

- Identification of the trail
- Kilometre