



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 espatulada

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



Casteira 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

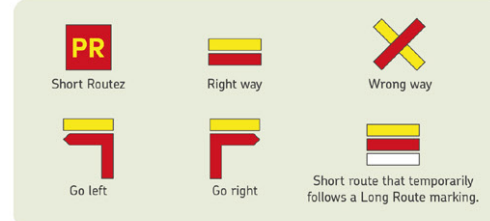
EN

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

(*) 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:



discovermelgaço.pt

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. +351 251 465 010
E. portadelamas@cm-melgaço.pt

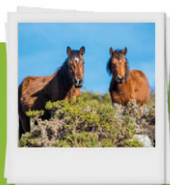
Co-funded by:



MELGAÇO'S HIKING TRAIL NETWORK

PR 4
MLG
**INTERPRETIVE OF
CASTRO LABOREIRO**

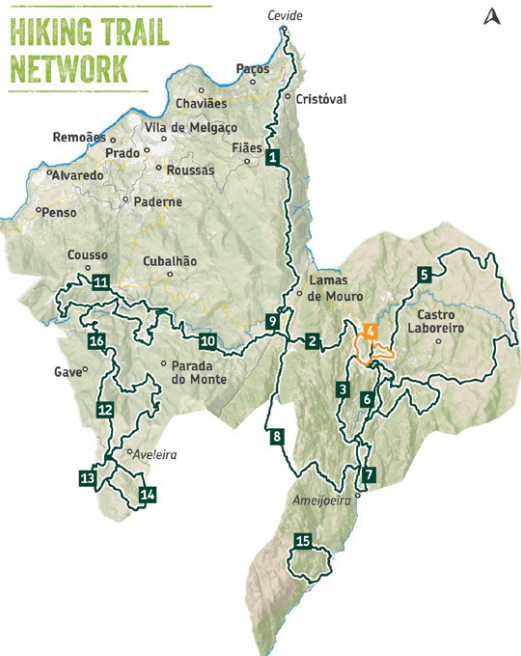
Castro Laboreiro → 5,2 Km - Circular - Easy



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 Glaciár do Vez 4,3 km
- 14. Aveleira 6,1 km
- 15. Curro da Velha 7,3 km
- 16. Transumância 10,3 km

TECHNICAL DATA

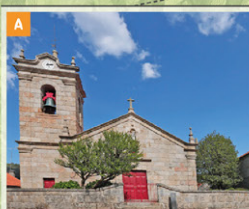
- PR Circular
- Starting point:** Vila - Castro Laboreiro
42°01'49.9"N 8°09'33.6"W
- Ending Point:** Vila - Castro Laboreiro
42°01'49.9"N 8°09'33.6"W
- Distance:** 5,2 km
- Duration:** 02h00 | - | -
- Route Type:** Landscape-Cultural
- Difficulty:** Easy
- Recommended season:** All year (*)
- Highest altitude:** 1096 meters
- Lowest altitude:** 934 meters
- Positive elevation gain:** 223 meters
- Negative elevation gain:** 223 meters



VEIGAS LEISURE AREA
The bridge rises over the Porto Seco stream. On this bridge, a ritual (common in the North of Portugal and Galicia) of "midnight baptism" was carried out, which consisted of "baptizing", with river water, the belly of pregnant women.



CORTINHAS VELHAS VIEWPOINT
It allows you to appreciate the Laboreiro river valley, the sharp peaks of the Peneda mountain range and the Castro Laboreiro Castle, in a rocky style of medieval times, currently classified as a National Monument.

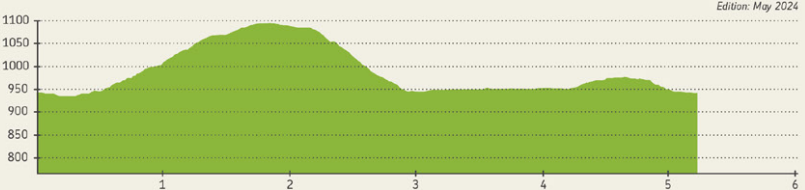


CASTRO LABOREIRO PARISH CHURCH
Also known as Santa Maria da Visitação Church, where you can see traces of its primitive construction, with pre-Romanesque and gothic elements, but also hints to the deep reforms it was subjected to.



STONE PILLORY
Built in 1560, coinciding with the attribution of the new charter to Castro Laboreiro. It was dismantled in 1860, but later rebuilt.

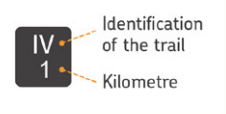
Elevation profile:



CAPTION

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

How to read milestones:



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

250 m