

MOUNTAIN VILLAGES



CENTRAL PORTUGAL

The bread, the “Serra” cheese, the wool, nature and people

Visit a destination tailored to you. A nature between valleys and mountains. More than 40 cultural villages with exceptional natural beauty and with heritage and traditions too. Known as the flavour villages. Stay and eat. Located in one of the largest green areas in the country, is the ideal setting to spend a few days in perfect communion with nature and to eat the fantastic gastronomy.



LAPA DOS DINHEIROS

Departure from the North or South of the country and arrival at Lapa dos Dinheiros, a village located 700m high overlooking the Alva river and Caniça creek in the Seia county. It is a place where you can find nature at its purer state, with several rare plant and animal species. Bathed by the Caniça creek, Lapa dos Dinheiros riverside beach is located in the green slopes of the mountain. Dinner and overnight stay in the amazing Casas da Lapa.

SEIA | PENHAS DOURADAS | MANTEIGAS | FÁBRICA BUREL | SERRA DA ESTRELA

Departure from Lapa dos Dinheiros and arrival in Seia, which is 8km away. Here you find the gateway to the highest mountain in Portugal, a wonderful natural setting with breathtaking views. Visit to the Bread Museum, located in Quinta Fonte do Marrão, which is a private museum and aims at gathering, preserving and displaying all the objects and heritage related to making bread in Portugal.

We suggest having lunch at the museum’s own restaurant. The trip will carry on to Penhas Douradas, which is one of the coldest places in the country, located at a height of 1500 metres. Penhas Douradas has become a benchmark for those who love nature, sports and an adventure holiday. The trip carries on through Covão da Ametade, one of the most beautiful and iconic places in Serra da Estrela. With its beautiful green surroundings, consisting mainly of birch trees, it attracts all those who visit it. Arrival at Manteigas, located in the heart of Serra da Estrela, in the Zêzere Glaciary Valley, which is a truly beautiful natural landmark. Manteigas is worth a visit because of its natural setting and its flavours: the trouts of the Zêzere river and the unique Serra cheese. The trip will carry on to “Burel Factory”, where two Portuguese decided to keep the old mill Lanifícios Impérios, which is the oldest wool mill in the region, alive. Today it is where “burel”, which is a type of wollen cloth, is made and used in different designs according to a fresh and innovative perspective. The mill is still in production, using the traditional machines and equipment, preserving the past and making sure it will carry on for the future. The day ends in Hotel Vila Galé, where you will stay overnight.

TORRE | LORIGA | FOZ DE ÉGUA | PIÓDÃO

The 7-metres Tower, which gives Serra da Estrela its full 2000 metres height, is located in Serra da Estrela Natural Park at 1993 metres high. It is an area of an unique natural beauty, where you can see a dramatic mountain scenery, experiencing communion with nature and a wonderful, peaceful silence. Winding through the mountain, you will arrive at Loriga, a village at 770 metres high, where sheep herds are still a part of the landscape. You will also find a Roman bridge, Roman roads, a medieval church and pillory dating back to 2600 years ago! In the summer, the Loriga riverside beach is the best unspoilt natural spot in Serra da Estrela. In the winter, the snow-capped mountains give the region its nickname: “The Portuguese Switzerland”.



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Time for lunch. We suggest “O Vicente” restaurante. In the heart of the Serra do Açor, just 4 kilometres from the village of Piódão, we find Foz D'Égua, which is a place where the Piódão and Chão D'Égua streams meet and the course of the waters is stopped by a small dam, creating a mirror of water and contributing to a paradisiacal site of rare natural beauty. There is a riverside beach for tourist use, framed by two bridges, two schist mills, a wine press and blocks of stones which were cut by the current of the streams. A few minutes later, you will arrive at the village of Piódão, set in an amphitheatre, just like a nativity scene around the steep slope of the mountain, creating a unique scenario of steps and slopes. The parish church, situated in a privileged location, is the element that most stands out among the schist – mainly due to its interior – which you can find everywhere in the village. The houses around the terraces, through winding, narrow lanes, between the blue of their doors and window frames, form a setting which is unique in the world. Dinner and overnight stay.

PIÓDÃO

Take a rest from your trip for as long as you like. Departure back home right before or after lunch, or whenever you feel like it.



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#WETRAVELTOGETHER




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