

## VULTURES ROUTE

### DESCRIPTION:

This itinerary goes through the southern area of Miranda do Douro. This region establishes the transition between the Mirandese Plateau and the steep valley of the Douro River, from a geomorphologic point of view, being evident the various differences in terms of vegetation in each of these areas. Of significance, we have the mighty Prickly Juniper (*Juniperus oxycedrus*), a vegetable endemic community, nationally, of great beauty and with a fundamental ecological role, in terms of the local ecosystems.

Of interest, is also the largest Cork Oak forest (*Quercus suber*) of the Northeast of Trás-os-Montes, located in the south of Fonte da Aldeia.

This plateau landscape is comprised of a mosaic of agricultural fields and *lameiros* (grazing pastures), contrasting with the olive groves, placed in ancient supported terraces, and the traditional vineyards of the Douro hillsides.

Along the itinerary that goes through the *Arribas do Douro* (Douro Cliffs), it's usual to come across the majestic flight of the Griffon vultures, (*Gyps fulvus*), in their incursions in search of the bodies of dead animals. The itinerary goes through the villages of Freixiosa, Vila Chã da Braciosa, Fonte da Aldeia and Picote.

### POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Bodega* (wine cellar), in Freixiosa;
- *Picones* of Freixiosa;
- Dovecots of Freixiosa;
- Church of Freixiosa;
- *Vulture place*;
- Porch of *passal*, in Vila Chã da Braciosa;
- Little chapel of *Santa Cruz*, in Vila Chã da Braciosa;
- Chapel of the *Santíssima Trindade* (XVI century), in Vila Chã da Braciosa;
- Rock press's, in Vila Chã da Braciosa;
- *Fraga do Puio*, in Picote;
- Castle of the *Escaladas* (Retaking period);
- *Castro* (fort) of *Picões do Diabo*, in Picote;
- Chapel of *Santo Cristo*, in Picote;
- *Berrão* (stone sculpture), in Picote;
- Ecomuseum *Terra Mater*, in Picote;
- Mount of *Trindade*;



- Little chapel of *Trindade*;
- Fountain of *Carvalhos*, in Fonte da Aldeia;
- Church of Fonte da Aldeia;
- *Curraladas* (old courtyards) of Fonte da Aldeia.

#### COURSE DETAILS:

- **Location** – south of Miranda do Douro / parishes of Vila Chã da Braciosa and Picote / Miranda do Douro area / Bragança district / Trás-os-Montes / Portugal
- **Course** – circular / generalist
- **Point of departure and arrival** – *Bodega de Freixiosa*
- **Distance to travel** – 30 km
- **Ground unevenness** – deep
- **Minimum altitude** – 525m
- **Medium altitude** – 692 m
- **Maximum altitude** – 750 m
- **Duration** – between 7 and 8 hours
- **Type of Course** – sportive, panoramic, environmental and cultural
- **Paths**– rural paths
- **Difficulty level** – medium
- **Favourable season** – there isn't any

#### TO BETTER ENJOY THIS ACTIVITY, WE ADVISE THE USE OF:

- Suitable shoes, fit for walking in the country/mountain;
- Soft socks, without seams;
- Head protection, suitable clothes to according weather;
- Binoculars;
- Camera;
- Sunscreen in the Summer;
- Small backpack with food and water.

#### PRICE:

- 1 day = 40,00 €/person (\*)

(\*) **Includes:** Specialized guide, obligatory insurance, and country lunch.

For more information please refer to the **Terms and Conditions**.

**We advise you to read the section**  
**Good Practices**

MORE THAN ADVENTURE, NATURE AND CULTURE

