

RIVER, VINE AND MEMORY OF THE TERRITORY

Melgaço & Minho Valley

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

DAY 1 — ARRIVAL AND FIRST READING: MELGAÇO & MEMORY

Arrival and check-in at the accommodation.

First contact with Melgaço, through a slow and attentive reading of its historic centre and surroundings.

Suggestions:

- walk through the Historic Centre of Melgaço
- visit the Museum of Alvarinho (Solar do Alvarinho)
- visit the Cinema Museum of Melgaço - Jean Loup Passek Cinema Museum — a displaced presence

The existence of a cinema museum in Melgaço is not obvious — and that is precisely what gives it meaning.

Linked to Jean-Loup Passek, a key figure in European cinephilia, the museum emerges from a personal connection to the territory and to the history of Portuguese emigration.

More than an exhibition space, it stands as:

- a gesture of cultural decentralisation
- a meeting point between individual memory and collective territory
- a sensitive reading of emigration as a lived experience

Here, cinema is not industry, but memory — and therefore a way of understanding place.

Dinner at leisure, focusing on local flavours.



CONTEXT

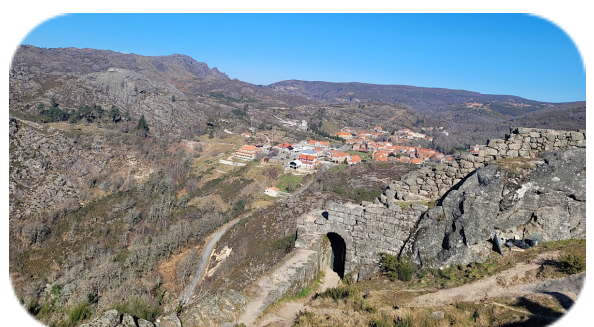
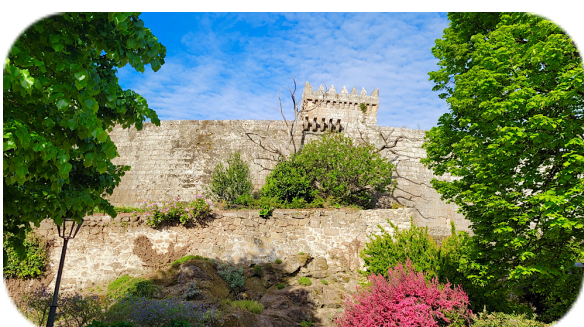
Duration: 3 nights (flexible)

Target audience: Travellers interested in territory, material culture, and local practices

Objective: To explore Melgaço and the Minho Valley through an integrated reading of landscape, wine production, heritage, and ways of life

The programme is structured around three core dimensions:

- the Minho River, as both frontier and lived space
- the Alvarinho territory, as a cultural and productive expression
- memory, shaped by migration, practices, and identity



DAY 2 — THE RIVER AS LIVED BORDER AND SHARED MEMORY

Along the Minho River, the border reveals itself more as encounter than separation.

The river, its stories, and its communities show how border culture has been shaped through movement, exchange, and continuity.

Reading the territory throughout the day:

- the river as both political line and lived space
- fishing weirs as expressions of an ancestral relationship with water
- the border as a place of passage: smuggling, migration, survival
- the museum as a cultural extension of these memories

Includes:

- WWG mediation
- Transport
- Regional lunch
- Visit to a local winery (Alvarinho)
- Interpretive walk along the river
- Discovery of ancestral fishing structures
- Border narratives and shared histories
- Visit to the Memory and Border museum
- Insurance and logistical support

The day unfolds as a continuous thread: **water** → **practice** → **memory**
→ **culture**



DAY 4 — CLOSING AND INTEGRATION

Free morning, time to:

- return to meaningful places
- walk without intention
- simply remain
- A moment for integration before departure.

DAY 3 — INLAND, MOUNTAIN AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Self-guided exploration day, with prior WWG orientation.

OPTION 1 — RURAL TERRITORY AND CONTINUITY

Route between Melgaço and Monção, crossing rural parishes, agricultural systems, and inhabited landscapes.

Includes:

- passage through Tangil and Merufe
- reading of rural occupation and land use
- lunch in Sistelo
- Includes a WWG mediation moment in Sistelo (2h), focused on cultural landscape interpretation.

Return:

Castro da Assunção:

- wide reading of the Minho Valley
- pre-Roman framework
- continuity of human occupation

OPTION 2 — MOUNTAIN AND WILDERNESS

Autonomous exploration of:

- Castro Laboreiro
- Peneda-Gerês National Park

Suggested reading:

- isolation and adaptation
- landscape as both limit and refuge
- a more direct relationship with climate and territory
- No on-site mediation, but guided by WWG principles: attention, rhythm, pauses, and connection.



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