

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 PassekCinema 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.

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

Dinner at leisure, focusing on local flavours.



OVERVIEW

Duration: 4 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 a meeting point than a boundary.

Between banks, stories, and communities, a culture of circulation and exchange takes shape.

The route follows the river as a lived space:

ancestral fishing structures (pesqueiras), the frontier as a place of passage and survival, and memory spaces as cultural extensions of this territory.

Includes:

WWG mediation, transport, regional lunch, a visit to an Alvarinho winery, an interpretive walk along the river, and entry to the Memory and Border Space.

The day unfolds as a continuity between water, practice, and memory.

🌿 DAY 4 – CLOSING AND INTEGRATION

Free morning, time to:

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



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🌿 DAY 3 – INLAND, MOUNTAIN AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

A free exploration day with WWG guidance, structured around two possible readings of the territory.

OPTION 1 – RURAL TERRITORY AND CONTINUITY

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

Includes passages through Tangil and Merufe, reading of the rural territory, and lunch in Sistelo, with a WWG mediation moment focused on the cultural landscape.

The reading extends to Castro da Assunção as a historical continuity of human settlement in the valley.

Return:

Castro da Assunção:

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

OPTION 2 – MOUNTAIN AND WILDERNESS

Independent exploration of Castro Laboreiro and Peneda-Gerês National Park.

A reading of the territory through isolation, adaptation, and the mountain as both limit and refuge.

No in-person mediation, but guided by WWG principles: rhythm, attention, and pause.

