

Viewpoints, beaches and waterfalls

In the region that named the Portuguese word for viewpoint, miradouro (“mirar o Douro”, look at Douro :) it’s easy to find somewhere high enough to enjoy the landscape. We highlight the **Miradouro do Carrascalinho** (Lagoaça, 14 km / 8,7 miles away – the access is by dirt road) and the **Miradouro do Penedo Durão** (Poiares, 25 km / 15,5 miles away), both with wide views. Regarding river beaches the highlight is the quiet and comfortable **Praia da Congida** (Freixo de Espada a Cinta, 16 km / 10 miles away) and the **Praia da Foz do Sabor** (Cabeça Boa, 39 km / 24,2 miles away). In the Rota dos Moinhos there are numerous waterfalls, the nearest (and one of the most beautiful) being the **feixo do Lixandre**. It’s situated 2,7 km / 1,7 miles away from the House and the access is through an unpaved road. It’s accessible by foot or by car (mind the steep incline and the poor road surface).

Eating

At the Estalagem **Soeiro Meireles** (Lagoaça, 12 km / 7,5 miles away), we suggest the cod. **O Artur** (Carviçais, 15 km / 9,3 miles away) is famous for the “posta” (steak). **O Lagar** (Torre de Moncorvo, 32 km / 19,9 miles away) serves regional food, with a wide variety. **A Lareira** (Mogadouro, 38 km / 23,6 miles away), in addition to a wide menu, serves wild mushrooms all year long. On the access road to **Foz do Sabor** (37 km / 23 miles) you can buy fruit and fresh vegetables from the Vilariça valley.

Visit

All the municipality capitals of the region have historical town centers that are worth visiting: **Freixo de Espada à Cinta**, **Torre de Moncorvo**, **Mogadouro**, **Miranda do Douro**. In Vila Nova de Foz Côa the **Côa Parque** (Museum and Archaeological Park) put the region in the world map of rock art. The **Parque Natural do Douro Internacional**, stretching from Miranda do Douro to Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo (and part of the Meseta Ibérica Biosphere Reserve) is a hot-spot for biodiversity, featuring cliff birds like the vulture and the golden eagle. In the Côa valley you can also visit the **Área Protegida da Faia Brava**, the first private natural reserve in Portugal. At Atenor (Miranda do Douro) you can find the **Centro de Valorização do Burro de Miranda**, where the endangered donkey breed has a sanctuary.

Walking Trails

There are more and more trails available in the region, and at Moncorvo the numbers have been increasing in recent time. In the old Sabor Railway there is now the **Ecopista do Sabor** (24 km / 15 miles, linear), that connects the town of Torre de Moncorvo to the village of Carviçais. In this village there is also the **Rota da Cigadonha** (6,5 km / 4 miles, circular), that goes along old cobbled paths and takes us to Cigadonha castle. Further north there’s also the **Cascata da Faia da Água Alta** (700 meters / 0,44 miles) in Lamoso, that should be visited after a rainfall. Turning south there is one of the footpath crown jewels of the region – the **Ribeira de Mosteiro - Calçada de Alpajares** trail, at Poiares, (7,6 km / 4,6 miles, circular), that crosses the valley of this Douro affluent and goes through its medieval cobbled road, featuring the wrinkle structures of the quartzite formations.

Astronomical Observation

The conditions for astronomical observation at Martim Tirado are outstanding, which was already confirmed by a small paper (<https://tinyurl.com/y8qp8mvv>) authored by Raul Cerveira Lima. Observation can be done whether with the naked eye or using binoculars (available in the living room library) or using a telescope. When entering the village there is an **astronomical observation platform**, that with its south orientation and absence of public lighting allows great observation. On the road to Freixo (N221), behind the **old Forest Ranger house**, there is another great amplitude platform, this time north oriented.

Boat Tours

From the **Cais da Congida** (Congida Pier) departs, from March to November, the **“Douro Internacional” boat**, that makes a tour of about two and a half hours in the Saucelhe Dam reservoir. The highlights are the cliffs and its birds (vultures and eagles), but also the luxuriant flora, like the nettle tree, holm oak, prickly juniper and wild olive forests. The **tickets, with discount**, should be purchased with Dona Clementina.

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the
little
big guide
of the



and everything around it

Rules of the House

The welcoming of guests is done by a lady called **Clementina Fidalga** is the House pet but we ask our guests to not let her in. **No pets** are allowed in or outside the House. By the kitchen table there is a **hammock**, which can be hung on the trees by the House. The **floor**, which is being repaired, is made of polished clay. We ask for a special care with it, since sometimes a sudden movement of a chair can damage it. The **microwave oven** has a quite straightforward default heating system, which consists of pressing the button “on” (vertical stripe) to heat for a minute. **Internet** works by switching on the router located on the living room. The code is by the TV set (network: 39F057; code: 6028870273). In each room there is a rod so you can regulate the inner curtains of the **skylights**, which should remain closed. Please use the **bathroom extractor**, its button is by the light switch. In the bedroom there is a **key** hanging, which should be left that way when you check-out. To switch on the **air-conditioned** you just press the orange button on the remote control (heating takes a while). The **yard** is for the guests enjoyment, but shouldn't be used as parking. All the **trash or used toilet paper** should be placed in the trash bin. The **water heating system** has only 120 liters/32 gallons so we ask our guests to not shower all at the same time. The **check-in** starts at 18h00 and the **check-out** ends at 11h00. If this schedule do not adjust to your plans, please let me know and we will do our best to change them.

Martim Tirado

Martim Tirado is a hamlet on the Carviçais municipality, on the Torre de Moncorvo district . Its foundation is recent (19th century) and is the result of the settling of the mountain ridge by population originated in the neighboring Mós and Carviçais villages. The cereal crops that still occupied mountains and valleys a few decades ago were replaced by orchards (with an emphasis on cherry, almond, olive and chestnut tree orchards) and pine forest. In Martim Tirado's history there's mining, already abandoned, and cereal milling. Many mills are still standing. This is a village located at some altitude (the houses are between 614 meters [2015 feet] and 721 meters [2365 feet high]) that varies between 362 meters (1188 feet) in the creeks and 823 meters (2700 feet) high at Porrinhela peak.

Rota dos Moinhos

The “Watermill's Route” (PR15-TMC) is a waymarked small walking route with 10,3 km (6,4 miles). It's best traveled counterclockwise. It can be used throughout the year, but it

should be avoided on hotter days. The steps are considerable. Of note are the windmills, the cascades, the rock formations and the riverside vegetation.

