

Baião

Natural Life

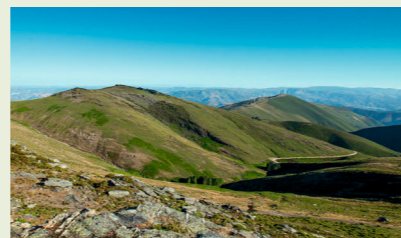
On the slopes connecting the peak of the Marão mountain to the river Douro, marked by “mightily dug” valleys with winding water courses, such as those of the Ovil, Zêzere and Teixeira, lies one of the greenest counties of the region.



In the **Aboboreira** mountains, open spaces with small-grown vegetation are predominant, specially in the flat areas. Shrub thickets and grassy pasture planes prevail. The granite domes and blocs are also a common sight in the landscape. From a biodiversity point of view, the presence of a rich fauna and birds of prey is to be noted. On the slopes of the mountains, the spontaneous regeneration of the native forest of oak trees can be vigorous at times.



The **Castelo** mountains are an integral part of the county of Baião. Though similar to Aboboreira, it is more diverse as it includes schist areas, low incline highlands next to rougher and steeper areas. Small villages are settled into the upper and centre third of the small river basins. The urban settlements lie within agricultural areas and forests of maritime pine and eucalyptus trees.



The large mountain range of **Marão**, where schist prevails, is marked by rock formations and soils covered by grass with bell heather, dwarf Spanish heat and prickled broom. The tree patches host a varied bird fauna such as the European stonechat, the Euroasian blue tit or the European greenfinch.



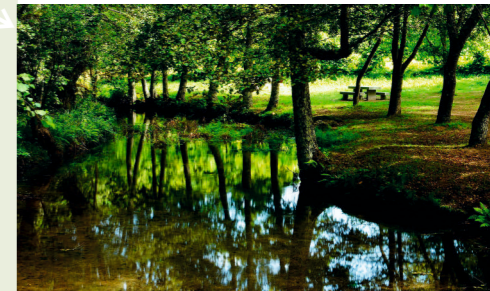
The **Teixeira** river has a high superior degree of protection and ecological value. Sliding gently between steep hillsides, the river runs along banks where tussock-sedge and other lush plants such as the royal fern grow. Besides the slug *Arion ater*, easily visible due to its large size and dark colours, dragonflies can be observed patrolling the surface of the river, such as the *Cordulegaster boltonii* and others flying above the vegetation, such as the *Calopteryx virgo*.



Crossing the county of Baião, the river **Douro** is home to a varied flora and fauna due to the diversity of the *habitat*, which is so characteristic to this Douro landscape. Here, you can watch the most beautiful that Portuguese flora has to offer: herbs like wild chamomile and dandelion, shrubs like the strawberry tree, daphne and tree heath and trees such as English and cork oak and the lote tree.

The fertile land allows for a strong forestry of gum trees and maritime pine as well as a rich agriculture of olive groves, vines, figs and corn.

The river **Ovil** is an important tourist attraction due to the purity of its waters, its clean beaches and the richness of fish. It is also a relevant ecological river with mild areas, where the plants, the air and people are in perfect and gentle harmony.



The **Reixela** oak forest is seen as the most important area of native forest in the region and one of the most important ones of the entire Douro Litoral. This forest reflects the dynamic nature of the vegetation and how it developed without being used or otherwise interfered by men. With agricultural and pastoral activities being discontinued in these areas the vegetation was able to recover and large oak woods, namely the English oak (*Quercus robur*), but also some Pyrenean oak (*Quercus pyrenaica*) developed.



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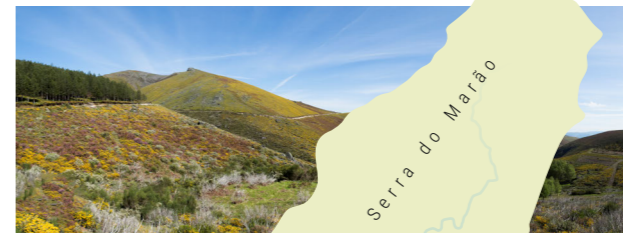
HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Riding centre
- 2 Dolmen of Outeiro de Gregos 2 e 3
- 3 Dolmen of Outeiro de Ante 1 e 3
- 4 Chapel of Senhora da Guia
- 5 Dolmen of Meninas do Crasto 3
- 6 Dolmen of Chã de Parada I (National monument)
- 7 Teixeira's biscuit
- 8 Walking stick's house (core of traditional arts)
- 9 Valadares's church
- 10 Eça de Queiroz Foundation
- 11 Casa do Lavrador (rural and ethnographic museum)
- 12 Ancede's monastery
- 13 Esmoriz's bridge
- 14 Museum (archeological centre)
- 15 Leisure areas
- 16 Reixela oak forest

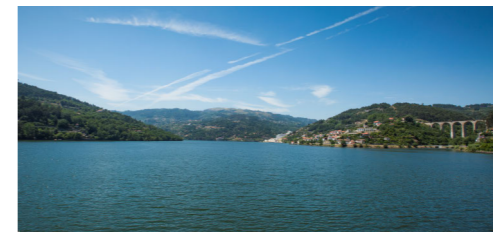
- County seat
- Parish
- Anchorage
- Station
- River
- National highway (E.N.)
- Municipal road (E.M.) / Municipal track (C.M.)
- Railroad



Serra da Aboboreira



Serra do Marão



Rio Douro



Dolmen of Chã de Parada I (National monument). Part of the megalithic set of serra da Aboboreira. GPS 41.202882 -8.007727



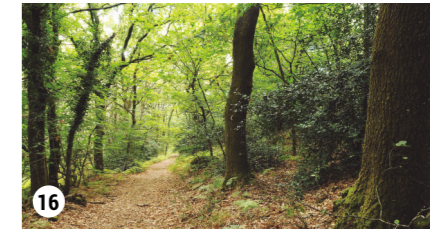
Eça de Queiroz Foundation – Exhibition centre. Quinta de Vila Nova – Tormes. GPS 41.124972 -8.004266



Monastery of Santo André de Ancede. Monument of the Romanesque route. GPS 41.101891 -8.056794



Details of the mural painting in Valadare's church. Monument of the Romanesque route. GPS 41.144538 -7.982819



Reixela oak forest. The most important area of native forest in the region. GPS 41.186546 -7.994783