

Baião Land of Culture

Baião exhibits a richness of heritage values, striking panoramas, customs and traditions that enhance and make this region of the country unique.



Soeiro Pereira Gomes, Friar Domingos Vieira and the Viscount de Villa-Moura are natural from Baião. Eça de Queiroz, Camilo Castelo Branco, Alves Redol and Agustina Bessa Luís are great names in literature who were inspired by our region. A key reference is the writer António Mota, winner of the Gulbenkian Prize of Children's and Youth.



Casa de Tormes, today the seat of the Eça de Queiroz Foundation, served as a backstage to one of the novels, which most highlighted the landscape of Baião: The City and the Mountains.

Located in the parish of Santa Cruz do Douro, the activity of the Foundation focuses on the cultural, educational, agricultural and tourist elements, with a strong emphasis on its role as a museum as it displays the heritage of the writer, reminding us of many scenes in his work.





Besides its presence in literature, the county is also characterised by its **religious heritage**: besides the monastery of *Santo André Ancede* there are countless churches and chapels, which reflect the history of the county regarding its architectonic, cultural and spiritual side.



Since the beginning of the 12th century the monastery of Santo André de Ancede has been deeply connected to winemaking and trade of wine. Since the Medieval Age, the wine was channelled to the city of Porto, becoming part of the river Douro commerce. The Interpretive Centre of Vine and Wine, housed by the monastery, tells and promotes its history, its relationship with vineyards and wine as well as the territory it is part of.



The pillory of Teixeira, located in that parish, is one of the heritage components worth mentioning, as is the church of Valadares, which is part of the Romanesque route due to its historical and architectonic role.



The *Casa do Lavrador* in Santa Cruz do Douro keeps alive the memory of everyday life of the farmer from the 19th century to the early 20th century through the rural and ethnographic museum. Here, we can see life as it was at that time and taste the simple yet flavourful gastronomy that was served at the table after a day of working in the fields.



Taking advantage of the natural setting of Baião, inspired and skilful artisans transform raw-materials such as wood, broom and stone into beautiful pieces of craft, namely the famous canes of Gestaçô, the Frende baskets and the colourful mosaics inspired by traditions of the Roman times.

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Dolmen of Cha 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