



Gerês-Xurés Cross-Border e-Bike Cycling Holiday

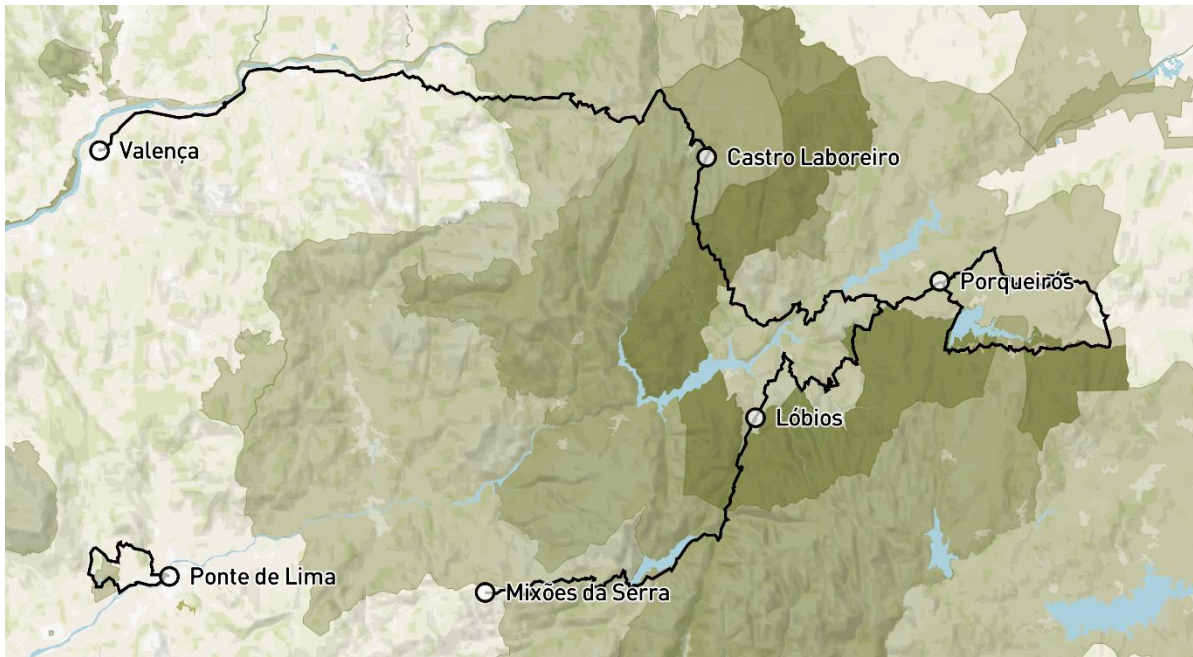
Cycle quiet mountain roads on a unique cross-border journey through Portugal's Peneda-Gerês National Park and Spain's Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés Natural Park.

Escape to a wild corner of Iberia where granite peaks, forests and rivers shape every day on the bike. This self-guided holiday is designed for unhurried discovery: well-planned routes, turn-by-turn notes and GPX files let you ride at your own pace while we move your luggage and provide friendly, on-call support.

Begin in Ponte de Lima with a warm-up through the Lagoas de Bertandos reserve, then drift past Roman milestones on the Geira, descend to Lobios for a soak in natural hot springs, and meander between Galician hamlets. Spot ancient wolf traps and megalithic tombs, cross the border twice in a day—across time zones—and learn about mountain transhumance. Later, roll into Alvarinho wine country and follow the traffic-free Ecopista do Minho to fortified Valença.

Overnight in small, welcoming hotels; e-bikes are available. Daily distances can be tailored to suit your needs—ideal for couples and small groups seeking big views, culture, and the rhythm of point-to-point riding.





Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Ponte de Lima | Ponte de Lima loop via Lagoas de Bertandos

Distance: 19.3 km (12.0 miles)

Elevation (gain/loss): +247m / -246m

Ponte de Lima is one of Portugal's oldest and prettiest towns. On arrival here, a member of our team will meet you at your hotel to deliver the bikes and give you a full briefing. They'll also ensure everything is set up for the days ahead.

Today's ride is a gentle loop through the surrounding countryside. You'll follow quiet backroads past vineyards, woodland, and small villages, giving you a real flavour of rural life in the Minho region.

During the ride, you'll cycle through the Lagoas de Bertandos nature reserve, a peaceful and protected landscape rich in biodiversity, wetlands, and native woodland. It's a beautiful area of woodland paths beside crystal clear streams, surrounded by the sounds of birdsong and other wildlife.

After the ride, you'll have time to explore Ponte de Lima on foot. Stroll along the riverside paths, wander the cobbled streets of the historic centre, and visit the Roman bridge that gave the town its name. With its relaxed pace and welcoming atmosphere, it's the perfect place to begin your adventure.

Accommodation: Ponte de Lima, 3-star hotel

Day 2: Mixões da Serra → Lobios

Distance: 34.0 km (21.1 miles)

Elevation (gain/loss): +573m / -911m

After breakfast, a short transfer will take you into the Peneda-Gerês National Park. You'll begin cycling from the hilltop village of Mixões da Serra, famous for its annual *Blessing of the Animals* event. At 728m high, expect incredible views from the very first pedal stroke.

The route winds through remote mountain villages and past grazing livestock, with long sweeping descents opening out to breathtaking views across the countryside. In many villages, you'll pass traditional *Espigueiros*,

stone granaries raised off the ground to keep grain dry and safe from rodents, a distinctive feature of rural life in northern Portugal.

In Campo do Gerês, one of the five official gateways to the Peneda-Gerês National Park, you'll find a small museum sharing stories of this area's traditional way of life. From here, you'll join the *Geira Roman Road* – also known as the *Via Nova (Roman Road XVIII)* – a well-preserved 2,000 year old military route that once connected the Roman cities of Braga and Astorga. Named the 'New Road' because it was the second one built between these two centres, it's one of the best preserved Roman roads in Europe. As you cycle along this ancient gravel track, look out for moss-covered milestones, many still bearing Latin inscriptions, that once marked distances along the route.

The final climb of the day crosses into Spain and the Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés Natural Park. Then, it's time to enjoy a long, winding descent into Lobios, where you can relax your legs in the natural thermal springs

Accommodation: Lóbios, 4-star hotel | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 3: Lobios → Porqueirós

Distance: 30.5 km (19.0 miles)

Elevation (gain/loss): +861m / -422m

Leaving Lobios, you'll climb gently to ride above the source of the Lima River. Today's route passes through traditional Galician villages like Esperanzo and Puxedo, where murals celebrate the cultivation and processing of rye. Life moves at a much slower pace around here, and you'll be pedalling along quiet, shady roads with hardly any traffic.

Around the halfway point of the ride, you'll reach the Outeiro do Muíño viewpoint. It has stunning views over the Xurés mountain range and the River Mao – a perfect place for photos and to soak in the scenery.

Shortly after, there's a turning for the village of A Cela. It's worth a quick detour to see the Bolos de Cela, an ancient wolf trap, and the traditional houses built among giant granite boulders.

The route continues, gently winding through the hamlet of Prado and on towards the picture-postcard village of Porqueirós. Tucked into forested hills, this tiny village makes a perfect peaceful retreat for the next two nights.

Accommodation: Porqueirós, Country hotel | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 4: Porqueirós loop via Tourém

Distance: 40.8 km (25.4 miles)

Elevation (gain/loss): +704m / -703m

Saying Today's ride is a superb loop through remote countryside, with a quirky twist – you'll cross the border between Spain and Portugal twice, with the clocks changing each time.

Setting off from Porqueirós, you'll ride on quiet rural roads through traditional villages like Randín, Feás, and Calvos on the Spanish side, and Tourém on the Portuguese side. The pace of life is slow here, and the scenery truly beautiful.

The area around the Salas Reservoir is called the Valley of Death because of its many megalithic tombs, and you'll pass by one alongside the road. Soon after is the Foxo do Lobo do Salas, the remains of an ancient wolf trap. These stone structures, once used to protect livestock, are a fascinating insight into traditional mountain life.

Between Guntumil and Tourém, look for a white border stone marked with an 'E' on one side and a 'P' on the other. Crossing into Portugal, the clocks go back an hour. Only 15 minutes later, you'll return to Spain and jump forward again. It's a fun and slightly surreal reminder of this trip's cross-border nature. The final part of the ride climbs gently into oak-covered hills before dropping to the small town of Calvos. It's an excellent place for coffee before returning to Porqueirós for the evening.

Accommodation: Porqueirós, Country hotel | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 5: Porqueirós → Castro Laboreiro

Distance: 39.4 km (24.5 miles)

Elevation (gain/loss): +867m / -747m

After a peaceful stay in Porqueirós, it's time to ride back into Portugal. The route begins with a gentle cycle through rolling countryside. Early on, you'll pass a lovely viewpoint overlooking the Lima reservoir, perfect for a morning photo stop.

Crossing the River Lima, you'll climb gradually through one of the region's most picturesque landscapes to the high point of the trip. Midway, you can stop in Entrimo for a coffee break before continuing. Take your time on the climb; the views over the Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés Natural Park are worth it.

Back in Portugal, you'll see a noticeable shift in the landscape. Across the valley are the Inverneiras, traditional winter homes used by shepherds in the transhumance. Though many are now abandoned, they tell the story of traditional mountain life. The shepherds' summer homes, the Brandas, are located higher up on the plateau.

You'll finish the day in Castro Laboreiro, perched 1,000m above sea level. The village has breathtaking scenery and a small museum dedicated to the region's heritage. A short walk to the ruined medieval castle is a perfect way to end the day – the views from the top are worth every step.

Accommodation: Castro Laboreiro, 3-star hotel | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 6: Castro Laboreiro → Valença do Minho

Distance: 54.8 km (34.0 miles)

Elevation (gain/loss): +388m / -1.279m

Your final day on the bike will begin with a long, scenic descent from the mountains to the lush Minho River valley below. It's a breathtaking ride, with wide open roads, rolling hills, and sweeping views.

You'll pass through Lamas do Mouro, one of the five official gateways to the Peneda-Gerês National Park. It's a great place to stretch your legs and learn more about the area's natural and cultural heritage.

Reaching the valley, you enter Alvarinho wine country, known for its crisp, refreshing white wines. Before long, you'll arrive in Monção, a lovely spa town on the banks of the River Minho. It's the perfect place to stop for a coffee or leisurely lunch while watching the world go by.

From Monção, the route joins the *Ecopista do Minho*, a traffic-free trail all the way to Valença, where your cycling adventure will end. Take a little time to explore Valença's fortified walls, cobbled streets, and traditional textile shops. Or you could cross the International Bridge to nearby Tui in Spain for a final taste of Galician life. Either is a great way to soak up the last moments of this incredible trip.

Accommodation: Valença do Minho, 4-star hotel | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 7: Free day in Valença do Minho and Porto

Spend part of the day discovering Valença do Minho - consider walking the Fortress Walls or dip into cobbled lanes lined with traditional shops (linen, crafts) and step inside the Igreja de Santo Estêvão to admire its serene interior and baroque altar. When ready, take the train or bus to Porto for the final stop on your Northern Portugal adventure. The rest of the day is yours: wander the historic streets, browse for souvenirs, admire the viewpoints or tour the port wine cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia. Choose from a diverse range of restaurants, from fine dining establishments to traditional eateries.

Accommodation: Porto, 4-star hotel | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 8: Departure

After breakfast, it's time to prepare for your onward journey. If you have time, take a final stroll through the old town of Porto before you leave.

Meals: Breakfast

Like what you see but it's not quite a perfect fit?

Simply get in touch to tell us what you're looking for. We're happy to make changes to create your ideal holiday.

Highlights

- Riding two protected parks in one UNESCO biosphere.
- Warming up through the Lagoas de Bertandos wetlands.
- Tracing the Geira Roman Road, milestones and Latin script.
- Soaking in Lobios' natural thermal springs after the descent.
- Border-hopping twice on the Porqueirós countryside loop.
- Spotting espigueiros and transhumance hamlets (Inverneiras, Brandas).
- Gazing from Castro Laboreiro and walking to its hilltop castle.
- Gliding the Ecopista do Minho to the walled Valença.

At a glance

DURATION	8 days 7 nights	GRADE	Moderate
ACTIVITY	6 cycling days	AVAILABILITY	1st April to 31st October
TYPE	Self-guided	MEALS	Breakfast 7
TOTAL CYCLING DISTANCE	218.8 km 135.9 miles	Nº PEOPLE	From 2
STANDARD STARTING DAY 1	Monday	SOLO TRAVELLERS	Not available

Prices 2026

DATES	PAX	PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE ROOM	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	NON-STANDARD STARTING DAY 1 SUPPLEMENT (per person)
From 1st April to 31st October	2-3 pax	1.180 Euros	395 Euros	60 Euros
	4+ pax	995 Euros	395 Euros	60 Euros

General conditions

INCLUDED:

- 7 nights’ hand-picked accommodation with breakfast;
- 6 days electric bike rental (TREK Allant + 7 with 27.5” wheels + panniers + helmet);
- Transfer between Ponte de Lima and Mixões da Serra (day 2);
- Luggage transfer between accommodations;
- Detailed route notes;
- An app with trail information for use on a smartphone;
- In-person welcome briefing;
- 24-hour emergency contact number (English-speaking).

Welcome Briefing: A member of the Portugal Green Walks team will meet you on the arrival day to provide a comprehensive briefing and personally hand-deliver your Welcome Pack. This pack contains all the materials you’ll need as a cyclist: a roadbook with route descriptions and tips, plus a few other goodies for the trail! A member of our staff will be delighted to answer any questions you have before you start your holiday.

Accommodations: A combination of 3- and 4-star hotels. All rooms have their own bathrooms. We’ve chosen these accommodations for their hospitality, comfort, and location.

Meals: All breakfasts are included with your accommodation.

Luggage transport: We will arrange for the transfer of one suitcase or piece of luggage per person between your hotels during your cycle.

Pre- / During / Post-Trip Service: We're here to help! Based in Northern Portugal, we are here to ensure that your trip runs as smoothly as possible. Don't hesitate to contact our support line to request assistance.

NOT INCLUDED:

Lunches and dinners; Insurance; Tourist taxes; Personal equipment; Personal expenses; All items not mentioned in the “Included” section above.

EXTRA SERVICES:

Extra nights in Porto (4-star hotel):	On request;
Extra nights in Ponte de Lima (3-star hotel):	On request;
Transfer from Porto to Ponte de Lima	150 Euros /up to 3 people 180 Euros /4 to 7 people
Transfer from Valença do Minho to Porto city/airport:	190 Euros /up to 3 people 240 Euros /4 to 7 people
Transfer from hotel to airport in Porto:	55 Euros /up to 3 people 85 Euros /4 to 7 people.

PAYMENTS:

The payment can be made by credit card or bank transfer. A 25% deposit will be requested upon confirmation and the remaining 75% up to 30 days before the arrival date.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

- More than 30 days before the expected arrival date – no costs;
- From 29 to 15 days before the expected arrival date - we retain 50% of the total cost;
- Less than 14 days before the expected arrival date - we retain 100% of the total cost.

Inspired by nature

Portugal Green Walks, Lda.

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