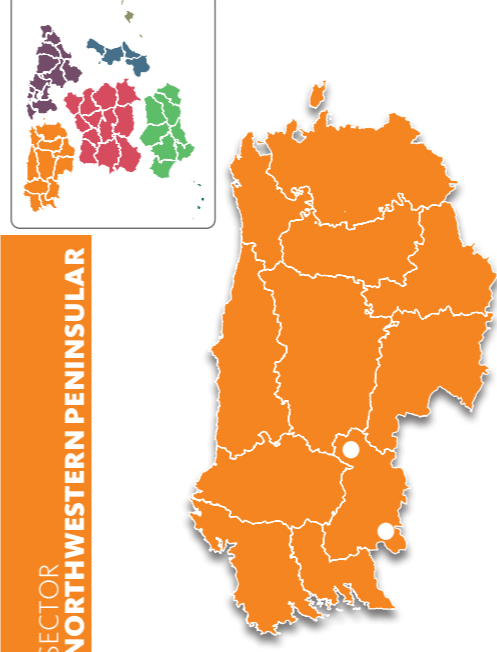


NATURE TRAIL VÍA NOVA



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain



SECTOR
NORTHWESTERN PENINSULAR

SECTOR
NORTHWESTERN PENINSULAR
NATURE TRAIL
VIA NOVA

PORTELA DO HOME - SANTA COMBA DE BANDE SECTION

1. From Portela do Home, a former a border crossing point between Portugal and Spain, the first section of this Nature Trail runs entirely through the Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés Natural Park, along the river Caldo and almost always surrounded by mixed forest. During the trail, numerous Roman remains can be found, such as the A Ponte Nova milestones or the *mansio* of *Aquis Originis* (The *mansio* were a sort of hostels managed by the Roman State where officers and traders used to rest). This section ends in Lobios, which hosts an interpretation centre for the Natural Park.
2. From Lobios the trail now runs through the River Limia valley, a rougher terrain, using the rural trails that join the different districts that form the municipalities of Baixa Limia region. On its way the trail crosses over de las Conchas reservoir's dam. This section ends un Santa Comba de Bande.

SANTA COMBA DE BANDE - A SAÍNZA SECTION

3. The second stretch of this nature trail is closely linked with the river Limia. Its surrounds las Conchas reservoir for the first kilometres, with a branch that leads to this sheet of water and which also allows the traveler to visit the interpretation center and Roman archaeological site of *Aquis Querquennis*.

BIOBRA - PETÍN SECTION

4. For the next kilometres, the river flows among mountains, and the trail runs by the mountainside, once again by making use of rural roads, this time within Limia region.
5. The trail approaches the river Limia, which runs through a wide cultivated plain, near the town of A Ponte Liñares, but it quickly goes uphill again, travelling through different villages on its way to the town of A Sainza, the final point of this section. Before reaching this town, the trail passes near more Roman milestones and Carbacha da Rocha, an enormous oak that is a Natural Monument.
6. During this section the Nature Trail runs almost always by the mountainside, so there are outstanding views of the valleys most of the time. It departs from the provincial boundary between Ourense and León, in Serra da Enciña da Lastra mountain range (within Natural Park of the same name) heading to the rivers Galir and Cigüeño valleys.
7. Like in the other sections, the Nature Trail makes use of the rural roads that join the scattered towns of Valdeorras region. The trail reaches then the River Sil valley, in the vicinity of Barco de Valdeorras, where the trail crosses the river and goes uphill again.

TELÉFONOS DE INTERÉS:

- Lobios Town Council: 0034 988 44 80 00
- Bande Town Council: 0034 988 44 30 01
- Rairiz de Veiga Town Council: 0034 988 46 55 52
- O Barco Town Council: 0034 988 34 02 02
- Petín Town Council: 0034 988 31 02 23

VIA NOVA: FOLLOWING THE STEPS OF THE ROMAN VIA XVIII



Este camino natural recibe su nombre de la Vía XVIII romana, conocida también como Vía Nova. This trail follows the Roman path, although not in the exact same route, in two different segments: more than 120 km away.

In the southwest of the province, the nature trail starts at the entrance of the Vía Nova in Ourense, passes by the port of Portela do Home (border crossing between Portugal and Spain) and ends in A Sainza

At the opposite end of Ourense, the trail changes its direction and, starting from Serra da Lastra (slope through which the Roman path entered the current province of León), the route makes its way up to the valley of the river Sil, which accompanies the trail up to Petín.

5. With the views of River Sil (and Santiago and San Martiño reservoirs) on the bottom of the valley, and the rest of the Limia region's towns over the opposite hillside, the trail runs down the mountain heading to Petín, the town where the route ends.

ROMAN VIA XVIII OR VIA NOVA

The Vía Nova Nature Trail takes its name from one of the Roman roads of the Iberian Peninsula, in the province of *Lusitania*, subsequently known as *Gallaecia*. It is the *Via XVIII*, which connected the cities of *Bra-cara Augusta* and *Asturica Augusta* (currently known as Braga (Portugal) and Astorga (province of León), respectively).

With a length of 215 miles (around 325 km), it was built during the Flavian dynasty, at the end of the 1st century AD, and it was inaugurated in the year 79 by Calpetano Rantio Quirinal Festo, when Titus was the Emperor and his brother Domitian was the *Caesar*, as reflected in the inscriptions of the milestones located along the trail.

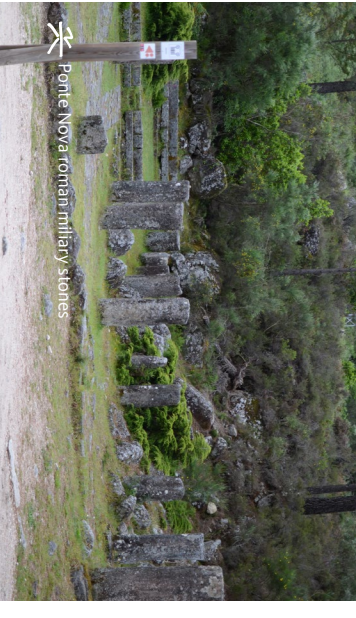
This road had eleven *mansio* or resting places along its route: *Saloniana*, *Aquis Originis*, *Aquis Querquennis*, *Geminas*, *Salientibus*, *Præsidium*, *Nemetobriga*, *Foro Gornestaria*, *Bergidum* and *Interamnum Flavium*, some of which (whether authentic Roman remains or their theoretical location) can be visited during the course of this nature trail.



River Sil in its way through O Barco de Valdeorras



End of Santa Comba - A Sainza section, near a Torre de A Sainza (the tower of A Sainza)



Ponte Nova Roman military stones

MIDE

Harshness of natural environment	1	▲ Upward gradient	1.146 m
Guidance along the route	2	▲ Downward gradient	1.262 m
Route difficulty	2	→ ROUTE LENGHT*	60,8 km
Amount of effort needed	5	🕒 TIME	17 h 10 min

*Lenght including branches

◆ town ● point of interest

Portela do Homen → A Sainza

Camino Natural del Interior. San Rosendo. Tramo Cejanova-Ourense

MIDE

Harshness of natural environment	1	▲ Upward gradient	934 m
Guidance along the route	2	▲ Downward gradient	1.476 m
Route difficulty	3	→ ROUTE LENGHT	47,2 km
Amount of effort needed	5	🕒 TIME	12 h 15 min

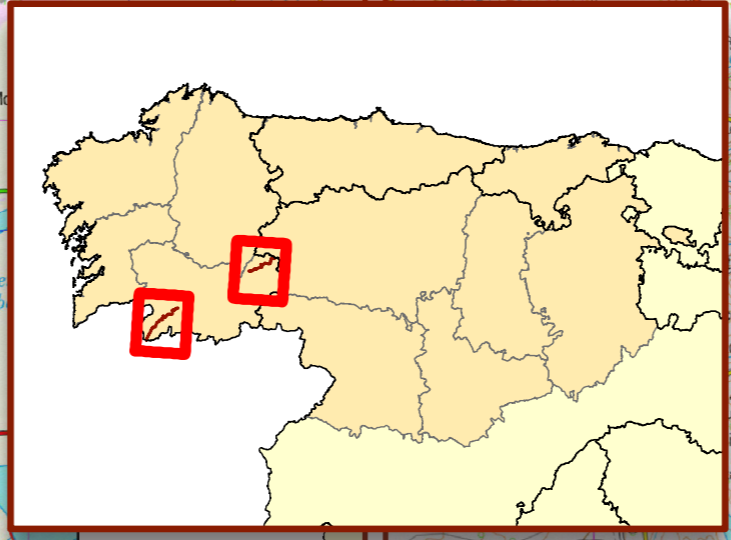
◆ town ● point of interest

Portela viewpoint (Serra da Enciña da Lastra) → Petín

Camino Natural del Interior. San Rosendo. Tramo Porto-Quintela-Celanova

Camino Natural Via Nova

Camino Natural Via Nova



- Section starting point
- End of section
- i Information
- 🚶 Walkway
- 🌉 Bridge
- 🏡 Town
- 🏠 Borough
- 🏰 Church
- 🏰 Castle
- 🌳 Feature of natural interest
- 🌳 Natural park
- 🏰 Monument
- 🏰 Viewpoint
- ☀️ St James' Way
- 🏰 Archaeological site
- 🚂 Other sights of interest
- 🌊 Reservoir
- 🚂 Train station