Come and learn more about a Route grounded on the memories of the Romanesque. Let yourself be challenged by the thrilling secrets of unique places and monuments, and discover the origins of Portugal. Be inspired by nature, by cuisine, by our people’s traditions and be part of our history.
Amidst the lands and the tranquility of the rivers that surround the valleys of the Sousa, Douro and Tâmega begins the history of a Country. Here you will feel the magic of walking across places ruled by three of the first five Portuguese noble families – the lords of Ribadouro, Sousa and Baião – in the 12th century. Lose yourself along paths that will continuously surprise you with historic legacies and bewitching legends...

FASCINATION WITH WHAT IS AUTHENTIC IS PART OF HISTORY

Awaken your senses to new conquests and be fascinated by the best kept secret in Northern Portugal: the Route of the Romanesque. A profusion of green shades bathed by crystal clear rivers merges the twelve municipalities of the Route of the Romanesque – Amarante, Baião, Castelo de Paiva, Celorico de Basto, Cinhais, Felgueiras, Lousada, Marco de Canaveses, Pacos de Ferreira, Paredes, Penalva and Resende. By travelling across these tradition-filled sites you will discover a unique Romanesque heritage...

A Route with over fifty monuments will reveal you the charm of monasteries, churches, chapels, memorials, castles, towers and bridges, built with hard stone in a vernacular style. This exceptional legacy takes you back to the foundation of the Portuguese nation and illustrates the importance of this territory within the history of Portuguese nobility and religious orders. Just nearby you will find other wonders, such as the cities of Porto, Guimarães and the Alto Douro Wine Region, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.
THE ROUTE OF THE ROMANESQUE ALSO HAS OTHER AMAZING EXPERIENCES IN STORE FOR YOU. COME AND EXPERIENCE THEM.
Discover ancient tracks and marvel at the perfect harmony between nature and historical legacies... In a lush green valley, where time seems to stop, one of the most important Benedictine monasteries of the time – the MONASTERY OF POMBEIRO – shows all its grandness. While contemplating it, immersed in silence, you can almost hear bells chiming and imagine the noble lords of Sousa wearing lavish attires on their way to worship God.

Feel like a real feudal lord! Climb up the imposing TOWER OF VILAR, a domus fortis, the symbol of manorial power within this territory. The stunning view over the valley is even more magical when seen from the top of its 14 meters...
At the peculiar MONASTERY OF FERREIRA admire the capitals, columns, archivolts and ornamental motifs from different regions and workshops that, in perfect harmony, represent the excellence of the Portuguese Romanesque style.

At the MONASTERY OF CÊTE the bucolic atmosphere will fill you with a unique serenity, offering you the privilege of learning about the territorial organization of that period, as well as the importance of the religious orders in the formation of the Portuguese kingdom.
Live the legend... Follow the route of the memorials erected in honour of the Blessed Princess Mafalda — the daughter of King Sancho I and the granddaughter of King Afonso Henriques — which mark the staging points of her funeral procession to the monastery of Arouca.

Stop for a moment before one specific memorial, the MEMORIAL OF SOBRADO, which stands out from all the others not only for its architectural originality, but also for the fact that, according to tradition, it was built where Martim de Bulhões, fighting for the hand of Teresa Taveira, won a duel against Fafes. Martim and Teresa would become the parents of Saint Anthony of Lisbon...

Smell the earth, hear the buzz of people and follow the chants that come from the MONASTERY OF PACO DI SOUSA. Here, amidst stone walls that keep secrets of generations, you will find that which is considered one of the masterpieces of Romanesque funerary art in Portugal, the tomb of Egas Moniz, the famous schoolmaster and governor of the first Portuguese king.

It was the 12th century and those were troubled times between the King of Portugal, Afonso Henriques, and King Alphonse VII of Castile. Egas Moniz, a descendant of the lords of Ribadouro, was the faithful master of King Afonso Henriques who, with his bravery and shrewdness drew the lines that would lead to the future independence of the Portuguese kingdom. He negotiated peace with King Alphonse VII by offering an allegiance with King Afonso Henriques who eventually broke the promise. According to the legend, to save his honour and that of his king, Egas Moniz travelled to Toledo with his family presenting himself barefoot and with ropes around his neck to the Castilian king. This act of heroism and loyalty earned him the pardon of King Alphonse VII and a growing admiration from King Afonso Henriques.
Amidst lands of noble lords, let yourself be led by female sovereignty. At the CHURCH OF TAROUQUELA, once a monastery of Benedictine nuns, unravel the symbolic universe that emanates from each of its stones. The curious dogs of Tarouquela will certainly catch your eye, simultaneously enraptured by the great valley of the Douro River.

Follow the steps of Egas Moniz, the legendary schoolmaster and governor of King Afonso Henriques, which lead you to the MONASTERY OF CARQUIERE. Go back to the dawn of Nationality and witness the miracle of the healing of the legs of the first king of Portugal. Legend has it that Our Lady appeared to Egas Moniz in a dream, ordering him to travel to Cáquere and dig in a place she had indicated, for there he would find an image of Her and the foundations of a church dedicated to Her. She asked him to build an altar in Her honour and lay there the young Prince Afonso Henriques – who had been born with crippled legs – and to stand there on an all-night vigil. Egas Moniz did so and Prince Afonso was healed.
Feel like a real-life Jacinto of Tormes, the charismatic character of the work *The City and the Mountains*, by the greatest Portuguese novelist Eça de Queiroz, who found his reason for living in these lands! Free yourself from the city shackles and find comfort in the simplicity of nature. Climb up the hillside overlooking the Douro and be thrilled with country scents every step of the way. From the top of the MONASTERY OF ANCEDE you may look around and take in the tranquility of a landscape of vineyards once dominated by the lords of Baião.

Stop by the River Tâmega! The ancient village of Canaveses is mirrored in its waters. Here stand the CHURCHES OF SOBRETÂMEGA and SAINT NICHOLAS, the guardians of the river banks that were once connected by the submerged bridge of Canaveses. Separated by the course of nature, they are brought together by stories worth rediscovering. In 1355, peace was declared between D. Afonso IV and D. Pedro I – father and son – in this village after D. Pedro’s military reaction to the death of Inês de Castro. In 1809, the Napoleonic troops “did not cross” the bridge and, years later, during the Civil War, it was the set of a fight between liberals and absolutists.
Smell the country scents that emanate from the MONASTERY OF TRAVANÇA! They come from the seeds that sprout from the fertile land once cultivated by Benedictine monks... Come closer and you will be dazzled by the magnificence of this monastic ensemble.

Stop for a second and observe the sculptures of the portals... Sacred and profane, dogmatic and symbolic, they depict the lines of the struggle between good and evil. Intertwined birds, demoniac serpents, lustful mermaids, men swallowed by monsters, atlantes that hold the palm of the Holy Scriptures... Here are the hosts of the temple.

Surrender to the monumentality of its tower, one of the highest in Portugal, and be fascinated with the mystic Lamb of God represented in the portal.

Release your adventurous spirit... Break new grounds and conquer the CASTLE OF ARNOIA, a symbol of medieval military architecture. Like a brave warrior, climb up the keep and watch the distant defence lines of the territory. In the background, wrapped in silence, there is a village that history has left as a legacy of ancient times. Recover your strength in the verdant mountain landscapes and let yourself be lulled by the sun... Feel invigorated to face new challenges.
Douro Valley

Senhora do Salto | Paredes

Leave the hustle and bustle of the city behind and surrender to the bucolic scenarios of the Route of the Romanesque. The mountains of Aboboreira, Marão and Montemuro hide verdant valleys that are mirrored in crystal clear rivers. An irresistible invitation to enjoy relaxing moments together with your loved ones.

THE ENCOUNTER WITH NATURE
IS PART OF HISTORY

RELAX.
VIBRATE.
BE MOVED.
Make the most of nature’s generosity and enjoy the refreshing thermal waters of Caldas de Aregos, Entre-os-Rios or São Vicente. Alternatively, you may choose an invigorating spa session in the comfort of a modern hotel.

On foot or by bike, enjoy long walks through the historical centres, the mountain villages and the “Aldeias de Portugal” [Villages of Portugal]. From a high belvedere, let yourself be swept away by the poetry of a magical evening and admire the serene beauty of the landscape. But if strong emotions are what really thrills you, then be ready for adventure! Your adrenaline will rise to the speed of river rapids that are perfect for rafting, canoeing or powerboating. While on land, speed up on the rally, motorcross or off-road tracks. Theme parks also offer you guaranteed fun.

For a complete experience, spend a night in one of our rural tourism cottages. Immerse yourself in the spirit of ancient times and enjoy atmospheres that are both traditional and sophisticated.
Hospitable and charismatic people reflect the heritage of centuries-old traditions. Go back to our roots and experience ancestral traditions. Let the singing and dancing, the colourful costumes and the hustle and bustle of the markets of the region’s festivities and pilgrimages weave their joy. Join the party.

Discover the soul of this people in the hands of its skilled craftsmen. Enjoy the meticulous restoration of wood and carved wood works or the beauty of the artistic embroidery and linen pieces whose ingenuity is passed on from one generation to the next.

In the museums you may learn about the history, the legacy and the life and work of great figures of Portuguese art and literature, such as Eça de Queiroz and Amadeo de Souza-Cardozo.
Then, surrender to the small pleasures of life. Try the tempting flavours of the region or delight yourself with the gourmet tastes of the exquisite author’s cuisine.

And don’t forget to enjoy them together with the region’s divine wine, the “Vinho Verde”. Travel across farms and wineries that reveal the mysteries of the vineyards that germinate in these lands and taste true nectars.
TAKE A LITTLE OF THE ROUTE OF THE ROMANESQUE WITH YOU. ETERNALIZE YOUR EXPERIENCES.
A Route founded on the memories of the Romanesque, inviting you on an inspiring journey through places with History, near singular monastic ensembles, churches, chapels, memorials, bridges, castles and manorial towers, matured in a land forged in green, full of wisdom and flavours.