

Chaves-Verín

Quick Guide

Best ideas
to enjoy the Eurocity of water

*Must-visits
Routes for everyone*



EN



visit
Chaves~Verín
the Water Eurocity

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Tourist Information Network



Chaves~Verín
the Water Eurocity

Verín Tourism Office

Rúa Irmáns La Salle 1 +34 988 411 614 | turismo@verin.gal

Chaves Tourism Office

Praça de Camões

+351 276 348 180 | turismo@chaves.pt

Vidago Tourism Office

Estrada Nacional 2. Rua João de Oliveira

+351 276 999 217 | info@vidagustermas.com

www.visitchavesverin.com  visitchavesverin



PLACES OF INTEREST

- Hiking Route
- Military Architecture
- Religious Monument
- Civil Monument
- Roman Monument
- Stone Wine Presses
- Museum
- Medicinal Mineral Water Spring
- Thermal Centre-Spa
- Nature
- Birdwatching Point
- Tourist Information
- Sport
- Golf
- Health
- Security
- Library
- Bus Station
- Service Station
- Parking Area
- Taxi
- Accommodation for pilgrims
- Aerodrome



Directions

BY CAR From Spain

A52 Highway (toll-free). Exits:

- 155 Monterrei / Verín / Vilaza
- 160 Verín / Chaves
- 166 Ábedes / Verín

BY CAR From Portugal

A24 Motorway (electronic tolls):

Recommended exits:

- 19 Vidago
- 20 Chaves
- 21 Chaves (heading Verín only)

DISTANCES

- A Gudiña 38 km (20')
- Vila Real 65 km (45')
- Bragança 110 km (1h 20')
- Porto 145 km (1h. 30')
- Vigo 150 km (1h. 30')
- Santiago 175 km (1h. 45')
- A Coruña 230 km (2h.20')

Welcome to Chaves-Verín

The Eurocity of Water

Chaves (Trás os Montes, Portugal) and **Verín** (Galicia, España) are a single destination, having water as their common denominator: the waters of the Tâmega river running through the fertile valley in which both cities are located; the medicinal mineral waters which flow from innumerable springs; the hot springs that make spas alive; the package waters that fill the bottles of some of the most renowned Portuguese and Spanish brands, such as Vidago, Campilho, Fontenova, Sousas, Cabreiroá, Pedras Salgadas and Carvalhelhos.

Besides water, **Chaves-Verín** also means cuisine, cultural heritage, wine tourism, culture and nature. The Quick Guide to Chaves-Verín provides you with advice and opinions to explore and enjoy our destination no matter the time of the year, whether or not this is your first visit or even if you are going to stay for a longer period.



Must-visits

in Chaves-Verín

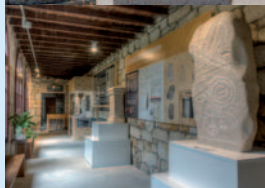


Castle of Monterrei

Travel back to the Middle Ages. It is one of the most beautiful and best-preserved castles you may have ever visited. Defensive and palatine structures, humble houses and even the church are preserved to discover the typical aspect of a medieval castle.

Mercedarian Cloister Museum and Old Quarter of Verín

The tunnel of wine scents, focused on the wine varieties of the area and some detailed information about the properties of wines from Monterrei, stands out inside the ancient convent. Corners and squares to stroll around and taste these wines with some tapas can be found around the area.



Route of springs, in Verín

The river unites the springs and ancient spas that made Verín famous as a thermal village, some associated with market brands such as Cabreiroá, Fontenova and Sousas; the ruins of Caldeliñas are reminders of a better past and the *Fonte do Sapo* remains a popular mineral spring, although not commercialised.



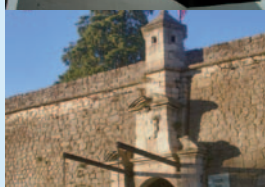
Museums of Chaves

We must highlight the Contemporary Art Museum Nadir Afonso, located in a building designed by Álvaro Siza Vieira. The history is the protagonist of the Museu da Região Flaviense and the Museum of Roman Baths. And there are more: the Military Museum, the Railway Museum, the Sacred Art Museum and João Vieira Museum.



Fortifications in Chaves

The medieval Keep and rests of the wall are preserved in the urban area. The Forts of São Francisco and São Neutel, which have witnessed the confrontations between the Iberian monarchies, date back to a subsequent period. The Tower of Santo Estêvão and the majestic Castle of Monforte de Rio Livre are located outside the city.



Roman Bridge and Riverbanks of Tâmega

The Roman bridge *Ponte de Trajano* keeps its design, which makes it one of the best preserved bridges in the ancient Roman Empire. It is the jewel of the riverbanks of Tâmega, one of the most beautiful areas in the city, with its parks and gardens, bridges and *podras*; the thermal complex Chaves Termas & Spa can also be found here.



Wines, wineries and wine presses

You are where the wines from Monterrei and Trás os Montes (Subregion of Chaves) are produced. You can explore their tastes in our typical wineries, they open their doors for you; and their archeology in the millennial *lagares* (wine presses) carved into the rock and dispersed across the areas close to our small towns.



*Photo Mercedarian Cloister © Carlos Montero Zorrilla

Special occasions to visit Chaves-Verín

Come to Chaves-Verín in...	...and enjoy:
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Three Wise Men Parade Verín, 5th January · San Antón. Food Festival Verín, 17th January
January / February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sabores de Chaves. Feira do Fumeiro · Gastronomic Weekend Chaves
February / March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Entroido. Carnival of Verín, Festival of National Tourist Interest · Carnival Parade Chaves.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Opening of the Thermal Season. International meeting of bagpipe players Chaves
March / April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Feira de Lázaro. Market and traditional festival Verín
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Commemorative ceremonies on the 25th of April Chaves · Festas de Nossa Senhora das Brotas Chaves · Chaves En'Dança. Festival de baile
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Os Maios Verín, 1st May · Día das Letras Galegas Verín, 17th May
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Rali do Alto Tâmega Chaves, summer · Chaves Mágico. Magic Festival
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Batucada-Summer Carnival Verín, last weekend of July · Festivals of the Town of Chaves
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Festival N2 Chaves Chaves · Festa dos Povos em Aqueae Flaviae Chaves, <i>Roman</i> festival · Monterrei Wine Fair Verín, 2nd weekend of August · Verín Festivals 15th August
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Festa de Nossa Senhora das Graças Chaves · Romería de Os Remedios Verín, 8th September
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Commemorative Ceremonies of the Establishment of the Republic Chaves, 5th October · Autumn in Thermal Springs. Meeting of Bagpipe Players Chaves
October / November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Feira de Santos. Market and Traditional Festival Chaves, 30th October – 1st November
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Autumn Fair. Market and Traditional Festival Verín
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Chaves Natal. Christmas · New Year's Eve party Chaves

Urban outings to explore Chaves-Verín...

Walk through the Eurocity's town centres,
where history mixes with green spaces,
always linked to water

Verín

The route starts at the Tourist Information Office, located in Rúa Irmáns Lasalle, which also houses an exhibition hall. We walk towards the *Convento Mercedario*; the cloister, the tower and the church are built in Baroque style with neoclassical touches. Inside the church there are several pieces of sacred art such as the Virgin of Mercy and the main altarpiece, which dates back to the XVII century. The Museum *Claustro Mercedario* brings us closer to the origins of the town and its wine culture.

The Statue of the Cigarrón (by Xosé Lois Carreira), the central figure in Verín's Carnival celebrations (*Entroido*), is the third stop of the route. Then, Praza García Barbón, a historic philanthropist and patron of the city. This square houses the Acevedo's House, where the historic meeting between King Felipe *El Hermoso* (The Handsome) and Cardinal Cisneros was held.



On leaving García Barbón Square, you will reach Rúa Maior, where you will find the church of Santa María a Maior. It has an adjoining chapel, that of As Dores, which housed the Virgin of the same name and the Christ of the Battles, attributed to the sculptor Gregorio Hernández.

Once you exit Rúa Maior, and after crossing the bridge over the Tâmega river, you will get to the emblematic The Assistant House, commonly known as House of the Shield. Dating from 1737, it was declared historical heritage site at the end of the eighteenth century. Nowadays it is used as a hostel for pilgrims.

The visit to the chapel of San Lázaro, at the foot of the *Camiño Real* (Royal Way), is the end of this urban route through the town of Verín. It would also be possible to walk up to the Castle of Monterrei, on the outskirts of Verín. ~



Chaves

The visit starts at the Roman bridge over the Tâmega river (Bridge of Trajan). An impressive structure due to its dilapidated arches, it was built between the first and second centuries. Two commemorative columns stand out, especially the *Padrão dos Povos*, on which ten indigenous Pre-Roman Towns are written. On the side of *Barrio da Madalena*, a typical homestead, you can visit the church of São João de Deus; the ravelin, which used to protect the access to the bridge; the public garden; and the urban park of A Madalena, along the river banks.



Crossing the bridge towards Chaves town centre, you will find the therapeutic spa at the roman baths of *Aquae Flaviae*, a National Monument since 2012, which have become the new Museum of the Roman Baths of Chaves. Heading up Cândia dos Reis Street, accounts of the importance of *Praça Forte de Chaves* are found: remnants of the walls from the year 600 and the fortress of São Francisco, built during the Portuguese Restoration War.

If heading Direita Street, you will walk through the layout of the old medieval town. There, you will find a harmonious balance of balconies made of wrought iron and multi-coloured wood. *Praça da República* is located halfway through. The *Pelourinho* (16th century), Manueline in style and symbol of the judicial autonomy, is also located there.



Next to *Praça da República* you will find *Praça de Camões*, the centre of the town. Here you can observe the churches of Santa Maria Maior (Mother Church of Chaves) and A Misericórdia. The latter is Baroque in style and its nave is covered with decorated tiles. The Dukes of Bragança's Palace, a palace built in the fifteenth, is also located at Camões Square. Today it houses the Museum of the Flaviense Region and its rich Roman epigraphical collection, as well as the *Câmara Municipal de Chaves* (Town Hall). After the Dukes of Bragança's Palace, you can visit the remains of Chaves Castle and its walls, as well as the *Torre de Menagem*, probably built in the thirteenth century. From the top of the tower, you can catch magnificent views of Chaves historical centre and of almost all the Tâmega valley. Some remarkable buildings as well as old and modern shops can be found walking through the narrow streets of the historical town centre. Besides, you will also enjoy typical bars that make the nights more alive in the summer. You can visit Chaves' hot springs in the *Jardim do Tabolado*. These waters spring up at 76°C and can be enjoyed during a relaxing bath in the spa, or even drunk directly in the *buvette* or, outside, from the *Fonte do Povo*.

The outing around Chaves may also include a visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art Nadir Afonso –the most recent building designed by Álvaro Siza Vieira– where the life and work of the renowned flaviense painter Nadir Afonso is exhibited. The Km 0 of the Route Estrada N2 can be found in Chaves. The 739 km road that crosses the inland regions of Portugal to Faro is the longest road route in Europe ~



- Muralha Medieval —
 - Muralha Seiscentista —
 - Tâmega Eco Route —
 - Urban Outing of Chaves —
 - Main Streets —
 - Pedestrian Streets —
- 1 Nossa Sra. de Loreto i
 - 2 M. Região Flaviense m
 - 3 Igreja da Misericórdia i

A24. VERIN
A52. Ourense-Vigo-Madrid
Forte S. Neutel

Centro Cultural de Chaves

Museu Ferroviário de Chaves

1 Nossa Sra. de Loreto

Cemitério

COMBATENTES G. GUERRA

2 M. Região Flaviense

3 Igreja da Misericórdia

Forte de S. Francisco

Outeiro Seco Vila Verde da Raia VERIN

Museu de Arte Contemporânea Nadir Afonso

Paços do Concelho

1

2

3

N. S.ª da Encarnação

Pça. de Cemitérios

Igreja Matriz

Museu de Arte Sacra

Castelo e Torre de Menagem

Museu Militar

Chaves Termas & Spa

Parque Infantil

Ecovia do Tâmega

Ténis Clube de Chaves

Poldras

Jardim Público

Vila Verde da Raia VERIN

VIDAGO Valpaços

Km. 0 Estrada N2

N2
0

Vidago

The parish church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição is the first stop when you reach the town of Vidago. Built during the first half of the twentieth century, it is Neo-romanesque in style and has clear influences from the Romanesque churches from the north of Portugal.

If you go through the Avenida Conde Caria, you will find the luxurious and impressive building of the Vidago Palace Hotel on the right side. Designed during the reign of King Carlos I, it was opened for the first time in 1910.

The splendid golf course at Vidago Palace is a Cameron & Powell redesign of an original dating back to 1936. Of 18 holes today, it was transformed into a Par 72 course, enhancing the organization of international championships, keeping the identity of the original design and faithfully reflecting its beauty, the unique qualities for practicing this sport and the distinctive sign of the place.

The magnificent centennial park is a must-visit to be amazed by its botanical richness, since magnolia, banana, camellia, holly and pine trees, as well as lavender, are mixed in a brilliant combination, hiding a quiet lake and the traditional hot springs. Examples of the latter are: the Vidago 1 *buvette*, of *Art Nouveau* style, which includes a small temple with Arabic touches, a gallery and a balcony to relax after drinking water; the Vidago 2 *buvette*, built in 1906 with a cubic shape, and crowned by a dome with four clerestories; and the Salus' *buvette*, built shortly after the Second World War, with a classical stone façade and interiors decorated in the industrial style of that age. In Vidago you should also visit *Fonte Campilho*, placed in the *Quinta do Revolar*. Its waters were discovered in 1882 and have been marketed since 1897. The bottling plant is still working today.



After leaving the park, if you head up Avenida Teixeira de Sousa you will find the Vidago's Research Spa (*Balneário Pedagógico de Investigação e Desenvolvimento de Práticas Termais*), resulting from the rehabilitation and refurbishment of the old railway station. An example of contemporary architecture, it houses an outstanding spa. Beyond its public usage, it's a centre of transmission of knowledge regarding thermal practices.

In the old quarter of the Villa it is worth mentioning the João Vieira Museum, some emblazoned buildings and urban spaces such as Largo do Olmo and Alto do Coto. You can also enjoy the excellent views from Alto do Coto, an ancient place of worship where a popular festival is held to venerate a soul who is said to be saint and whose house is preserved by the family. Vidago is also the first stop of the Route Estrada N2. ~



A24. CHAVES-VERÍN
Vila Real-Porto



Urban Outing
of Vidago





Biohealthy Plans Chaves~Verín~Vidago



21
days
TO A NEW YOU

Are you ready to feel renewed?

Chaves-Verín helps you to get a new lifestyle.

In three weekends,
with the power of our waters
and following the advice of our health experts,
you will notice the changes.

and without even thinking about it,
while you are enjoying the health
and well-being experiences of the
Thermal and Water Route.

Routes to visit Chaves-Verín

A tour around the springs and the thermal heritage; hiking and cycling tours along the riverbanks of Tâmega; following the trail of the pilgrims; venturing into the routes of smuggling; finding new flavours. Choose your way to live the border.

- **Thermal and Water Route**

Free route, about 103 km to get to all the springs



- **Interior Portuguese Way to Santiago**

Section Vidago-Verín 45,8 km | Viseu-Santiago about 390 km



- **Tâmega Eco Route**

Chaves-Verín 32,1 km | Chaves-Vidago 19,6 km



- **Castles and Fortresses of the Border**

Free route, about 60 km to reach all the fortresses



- **Smugglers Roads**

Ribeira de Feces Route 10 km



- **Cross-border Enogastronomic Route**

Free route



Tips

- Measure your time.
If you take a long route, consider meal times and a place to stay overnight. Also plan the time and return route.
- Check the weather forecast.
- Take comfortable and breathable shoes, light clothing and a hat.
- Take 4 or 5 meal breaks per day.
Drink plenty of water.
- Rest a few minutes every hour.
- If you are on foot, help yourself using a staff.



Thermal and Water Route



The Thermal and Water Route, touring circuit, is the proposal of Chaves-Verín for visiting the Water Eurocity. Their itineraries take the visitor through the most emblematic and interesting tourist spots. Great monuments and beautiful retreats; history and landscapes; people and establishments eager to show off the destination. And with water always both backdrop and star in the form of rivers, springs, bathing resorts and thermal spas.

The main stretch, Verín-Chaves-Vidago, joins the territory from the heart of the Tâmega valley. The area is easily accessed and can be navigated from north to south, south to north or taking one spot as a base. The Thermal and Water Route can be done in one day, for a basic visit, or two, ideal for more leisurely enjoyment.

The protagonist of the Thermal and Water Route is without doubt water, in the springs and spa resorts. Visitors discover the area's surprising mineral bathing tradition, in a wealth of springs that are unique in Europe. Nature has been more than generous, and history has made good use of the gift. The names of Chaves, Aquae Flaviae, reveal the Roman heritage of their distant origins. The golden age of thermalism, in the early and middle 20th century, has left a clear mark on Verín, Chaves and Vidago. Today, the spa facilities are renewed to meet present-day demands for health and well-being; bottling plants work at full capacity to export the nuances of different waters. ~



Ask for your Passport and get your diploma to be an Ambassador of the Waters of Chaves-Verín

- 1 Ask for your Passport and your Spa-goer kit of the Thermal and Water Route in any office of the Tourist Information Network Chaves-Verín.
- 2 Go on a tour around Chaves-Verín and visit the springs. You will find a stamp to seal your Passport in six springs of the Thermal and Water Route. On your way, find about the incredible thermal heritage treasured throughout the centuries.
- 3 Get your diploma and take part in our draws. Show your stamped Passport in any office of the Tourist Information Network and you will get a diploma that qualifies you as the Ambassador of the Waters of Chaves-Verín, a nice souvenir that will allow you to take part in a prize draw with a very special and.... really thermal gift.

The spa of Caldeliñas

The romantic thermal ruins
Caldeliñas. Verín

Fonte do Sapo

A place in nature
Verín

Fontenova

The small spa
Verín

Sousas

The long standing brand of waters of Verín
Verín

Cabreiroá

The great thermal complex of Verín
Cabreiroá. Verín

Fonte da Facha

A popular fountain in a raia (the border)
Vilarelho da Raia. Chaves

Chaves Temas & Spa

Two thousand years of thermalism
Chaves

Thermal Park of Vidago

The desire of a king
Vidago. Chaves

Campilho

That alluring enchantment of the past
Vidago. Chaves

Balneário Pedagógico de Vidago

A new destination for the old railway station
Vidago. Chaves

Carvalhelhos

Caldas Santas de Barroso
Carvalhelhos. Boticas

Thermal Park of Pedras Salgadas

A shelter created around water
Pedras Salgadas. Vila Pouca de Aguiar

Thermal and Water Route



THERMAL AND WATER ROUTE
declared a Cultural Itinerary
by the European Council



Stamping point of the Passport
for the Thermal and Water Route



THE EUROPEAN
ROUTE OF
HISTORIC
THERMAL
TOWNS



Cultural Route of the
Itinéraire Culturel du
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Interior

Portuguese Way to Santiago

in Chaves-Verín

Throughout the centuries, pilgrims from Portugal and Spain have been found on the banks of the Tâmega. Perhaps it was so much devotion the reason that here arose the first book printed in Portuguese, *Sacramental* of Chaves, and the first book printed in Galicia, the *Missal Auriense* of Monterrei, both from the late fifteenth century. Today, pilgrims, with their thousand motivations, continue going through the Chaves-Verín way to Santiago.

The Interior Portuguese Way starts in Farninhão, Viseu. In Portuguese territory it passes through the municipalities of Viseu, Castro Daire, Lamego, Peso da Régua, Santa Marta de Penaguião, Vila Real, Vila Pouca de Aguiar and, finally, Chaves. Crossing the border into Verín - by Vilarelho da Raia or Vila Verde da Raia - it is there joined by the Via de la Plata, where two roads can be taken: to the north, by Laza, or towards the northwest, by Xinzo de Limia. In the latter, the entire way, from Viseu to Santiago de Compostela is over 370 km long, where it is suggested the trail be completed in twenty stages.

In Chaves-Verín, the Way approaches the Tâmega, at the meadow, where the vineyards will be increasingly more frequent. Along the entire route, the traveller has the opportunity to enjoy the warm mineral springs and pass at the foot of the fortifications that defend the border. For those who do not intend to reach to Santiago, the route of the Road is also an opportunity to get to know the landscapes of Chaves-Verín on foot, bike or horseback. ~



The Route in Chaves-Verín

The Portuguese Interior Way offers a complete vision of the land. Move through nature, crossing several localities. It will be easy for you to find everything that you need: where to eat, where to stay overnight, or where to make purchases for anything that you may need to continue the journey.

Accesses to the Way. The Way enters Chaves-Verín by the Parish of Oura. If you are not undertaking the complete pilgrimage, you will be able to access it in any of the localities which it passes and do just one of the stretches.

Follow the yellow. The signalling of the ways of St James is already universal, the Shell and the Arrow, always in yellow colour, will be your guides.

Crossing the border. On the map, you will see two ways in which to cross the border from Outeiro Seco. ~

Accommodation for pilgrims (pilgrim's credential required; calling in advance is recommended):

- **Bombeiros Voluntários de Vidago**
Vidago. Av. Conde de Caria, 2
Tel.: +351 276 907 122
- **Centro Social e Cultural**
Vilarelho da Raia. Rua Arcos
Tel.: +351 276 916 400
- **Pilgrim shelter Casa do Escudo**
Verín. Av. San Lázaro, 26

For further information:

- caminodesantiago.xunta.gal
- cpisantiago.pt

The Interior Portuguese Way to Santiago

Via da Prata (Silver Way)

Accommodation

wikiloc

Chaves-Verín Caminho Português de Interior (por Vilarelho da Raia)

Chaves-Verín Caminho Português de Interior (por Feces de Abaixo)

UISE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

INTERIOR PORTUGUESE WAY

Farminhão - Fontelo (Viseu)	17 Km
Fontelo (Viseu) - Almargem	16,7 Km
Almargem - Ribolhos	23,6 Km
Ribolhos - Bigorne	19,7 Km
Bigorne - Penude	11,9 Km
Penude - Bertelo	29,2 Km
Bertelo - Vila Real	11 Km
Vila Real - Parada de Aguiar	26,8 Km
Parada de Aguiar - Vidago	22,6 Km
Vidago - Chaves	19,7 Km
Chaves - Verín	26,1 Km

VIA DA PRATA (through Xinzo de Limia)

Verín - Xinzo de Limia	36,2 Km
Xinzo de Limia - Allariz	20,7 Km
Allariz - Ourense	22,4 Km

VIA DA PRATA (through Laza)

Verín - Laza	19 Km
Laza - Vilar de Barrio	19 Km
Vilar de Barrio - Ourense	25 Km

VIA DA PRATA (Ourense-Santiago)

Ourense - Cea	22,8 Km
Cea - Dozón	15,6 Km
Dozón - Bendoiro	18,4 Km
Bendoiro - Vedra	33,8 Km
Vedra - Santiago	16,6 Km

ROUTE: Interior Portuguese Way
To Santiago. Section Chaves-Verín

START: Oura Parish (Chaves)
7° 34' 52.31" W / 41° 35' 53.69" N
29T X 0618240 Y 4606144

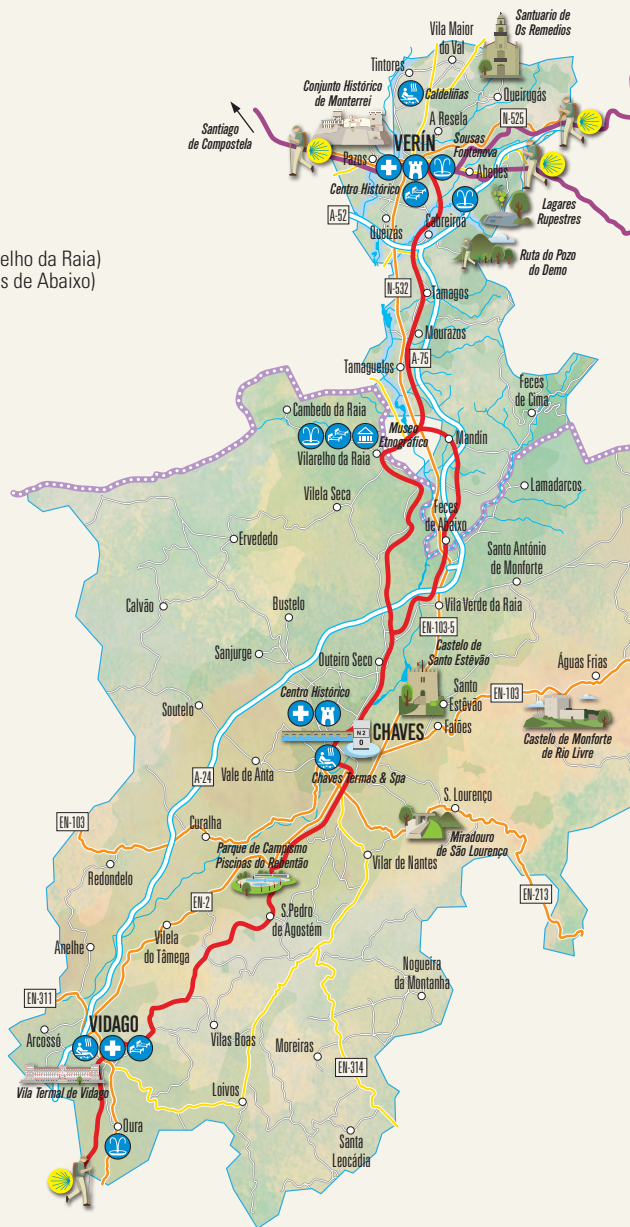
FINAL: Casa do Escudo (Verín)
7° 26' 35.33" W / 41° 56' 26.28" N
29T X 0629056 Y 4644357

DISTANCE: 54,3 Km (total Eurocity)
45,8 (Vidago-Chaves-Verín)

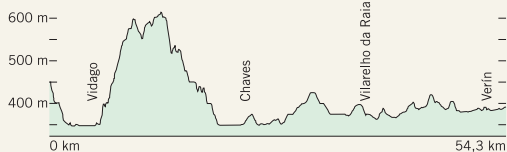
DURATION: On foot: 2 days
On bicycle: 1 day

ALTITUDE: Lowest: 353 m
Highest: 620 m
Average: 420 m

DIFFICULTY: Moderate



The Interior Portuguese Way to Santiago in Chaves-Verín



Tâmega Eco Route



The Tâmega Eco Route is the Cross-border Ecologic Corridor that runs alongside the river and joins Chaves and Verín. The route can be explored on foot or bicycle, enjoying the contact with the scenery, and starting at either end or from an intermediate point, or even covering its more urban stretches. The entire route covers over 30 easy kilometres along a smooth, mostly flat pathway.

In Verín, it is best to start (or finish, if you are going the other way) at the River Beach. From here the route goes to Pazos, where km 0 is located. The traveler can move around on both sides of the river, enjoying the Pracer Forest, but it is the path that leads off to the left that will take you to Chaves. You will almost immediately come upon the series of lagoons that mark the river and the detours to the bird watching routes. The first lagoons are in Oimbra, Mourazos and Tamaguelos. Crossing the border, or *Raia*, is currently done through the old frontier posts, before going down to the river again at Açude da Veiga (A Veiga River Dam). The path runs alongside the river and the canal that irrigates the Veiga de Chaves just outside Vila Verde da Raia. Next come the cereal crops and orchards and the first glimpse of the largest cluster of lakes, the lagoons of Chaves, with their vast expanses of water. And so we reach the city, where once again, the Eco Route turns back along the edges of the river, on the Chaves Cycle Route, coming in below the Forte de São Neutel or through La Madalena parish. ~

The Tâmega River

The star of the Eco Route, the river is a tributary of the Douro, which starts some kilometres north of Verín, in Alberguería, in the Sierra de San Mamede; from there all the way downstream to Feces de Abaixo the zone is protected as part of the Nature Network 2000. It runs between steep banks through mountainous terrain until it reaches the Monterrei Valley and the *Veiga* of Chaves. It is in this area where long ago agriculture was developed and numerous townships were born. The river flows into Portugal as far as Entre-os-Ríos, close to Oporto, where it meets the Douro. It gives its name to locations –Tamagos, Tamaguelos, Vilela do Tâmega...– and also to one of the tribes the Romans encountered when they arrived, the *Tamagani*, mentioned in the *Padrão dos Povos* set atop the Roman bridge at Chaves. ~

Bird Watching Routes

The lagoons of Tâmega, created artificially by extracting the gravel from the river bed, are bird sanctuaries and crossing and nesting places for some species of migratory birds. Associated with the Tâmega Eco Route, three tours have been specially created for birdwatching enthusiasts: these are the Tamaguelos-Mourazos, A *Raia* and Lagoons of Chaves Birdwatching Routes. ~

ASK FOR YOUR BIRD WATCHING KIT IN THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES



ROUTE:	Tâmega Eco Route and Chaves-Vidago Route
VERÍN ACCESS:	Verín River Beach 7° 26' 29.79" W / 41° 56' 27.65" N 29T X 0629183 Y 4644401
CHAVES ACCESS:	Alameda do Tabolado 7° 28' 22.24" W / 41° 44' 12.29" N 29T X 0626997 Y 4621675
VIDAGO ACCESS:	Balneário Pedagógico de Vidago (antigua Railway Station) 7° 34' 14.36" W / 41° 37' 59.04" N 29T X 0619054 Y 4610024
DISTANCE:	32,1 km Tâmega Eco Route 18,6 km Chaves-Vidago Route
DURATION:	1 day Verín-Chaves + 1 day Chaves-Vidago
ALTITUDE:	Lowest: 328 m Highest: 403 m Average: 365 m
DIFFICULTY:	Moderate

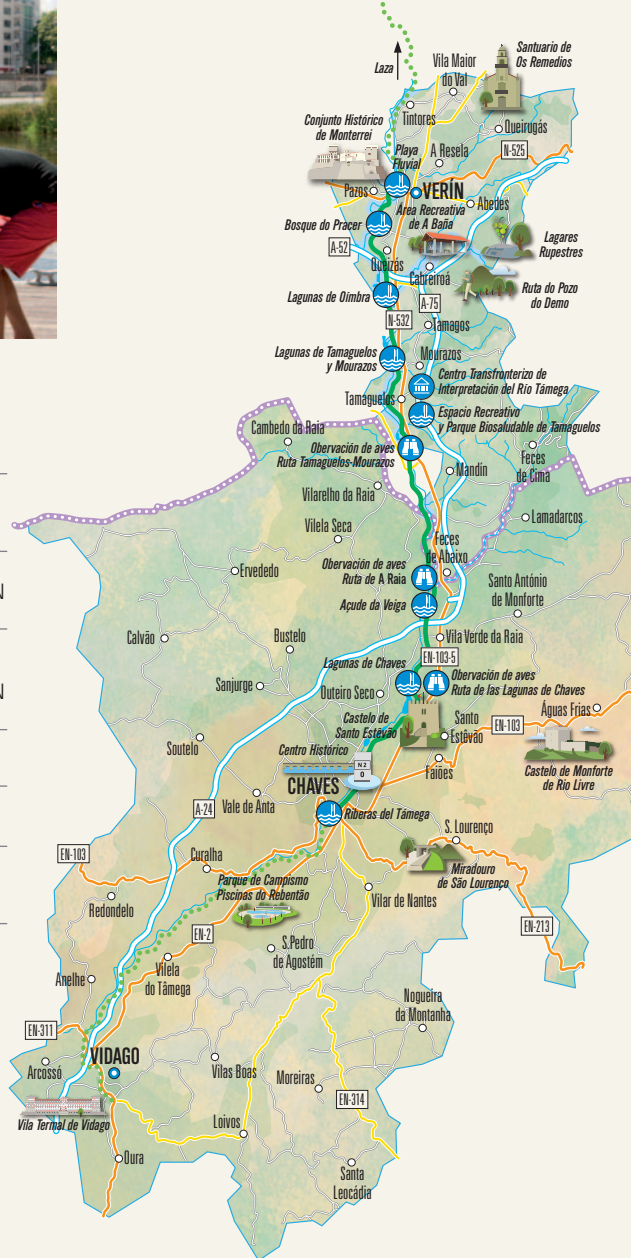


Tâmega Eco Route

Eco Route Verín-Laza / Chaves-Vidago

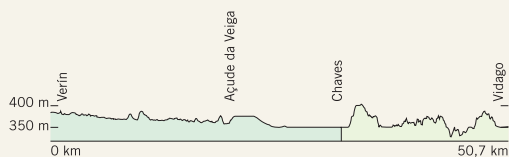
Nature

Bird watching



wikiloc

Chaves-Verín Ecovia do Tâmega



Castles and Fortresses of the Border

The *Raia*, which is what they call the border from both sides, crosses the valley of the Tâmega and the mountains that surround it in a whimsical way. The river flows through it, ignoring the divisions created by men, but the observant traveller will notice as villages and landscapes change. Taking the *Raia* in direct contact with the landscape is a game to discover what remains unchanged on both sides, as the identity of a land that changes. You will also discover the contrasts between the meadow and the surrounding mountains.

Stops:

Monterrei Castle (XII-XVII centuries)



A true medieval acropolis of Renaissance style which has been well preserved. There are three walled enclosures, the Keep (XV century), The Earls' Palace (*Palacio dos Condes*) and The Ladies' Tower (*Torre das Damas*), the pilgrims' hospital, Sta. María de Gracia church, a watchtower on the outside...

Verín Wall (XVII century)

A small section from the 2 km ancient stone wall, which started to be built in 1640, can still be seen in front of the river.

Monforte de Rio Livre Castle (XIII-XVII centuries)

The heart of a town that protected the newly created kingdom of Portugal. The current design, which shows a keep and three towers to strengthen the wall, results from the works undertaken in the XIII century. The barbican and the moat were added in the XV century.



The ***Raia* Fortresses MTB Route** takes you by Chaves-Verín showing its ancient defensive structures. Since the Middle Ages, and in particular, with the Restoration War, which separated the Spanish and Portuguese crowns in the seventeenth century, castles and forts were erected to ensure the positions before the enemy: Monterrei Castle, remains of the Verín wall, São Neutel and São Francisco Forts, Menagem Tour and Santo Estêvão Castle and Monforte de Rio Livre; all of them are worth a visit. ~

Santo Estêvão Castle (XII century)



The strong Keep, made of well carved ashlar, is still preserved.

Castle and walls of Chaves (XIII century)

The Keep comes from the castle being rebuilt in the XIII century. There are also some sections of the wall which surrounded the medieval town.





Fort of São Francisco and XVII century wall (XVII century)

During the Restoration war, the hill where a Franciscan convent was placed was fortified and as a result, a fort adapted to the contemporary weapons was built. The town was reinforced with a new wall and the ravelin of Madalena, on the other side of the river.

Fort of São Neutel (XVII century)

It is also part of the reinforcement of the town because of the war against the Spanish monarchy. It follows the Vauban model, like the previous fort, with a quadrangular base and bastions at the corners. Inside the fort we can find the chapel Nossa Senhora das Brotas. ~



Smugglers Roads

Night experience

Experience the life of smugglers

The border creates genuine life forms throughout history. The populations next to the *Raia* form relationships between them that give them a unique character, with unique customs and practices. One of them is smuggling, this trade that was outside the law was, in many cases, a choice for survival.

On the right bank (west) of the river Tâmega, several activities and events are organized in Vilarelho da Raia to let you experience the life of a smuggler. They are strict and lively performances based on the documents and memories of the people who were the protagonists of history; some of them even take part and provide first-hand evidence about those times.

All the details related to the *frete* or the smuggling activity are included: the characters (landlords, guides, *treleiros* or bearers, inspecting officers); the places (*palheiros* and *matos* to hide the goods or *talego*, meeting points, routes); passwords... and even the *mata-bicho* or snack to end the *frete*.



Activities

Night Smuggling Routes

The 8 km routes, which last about two hours, are adapted for everybody. The smuggling activity or *frete* is recreated in full detail and in a thrilling atmosphere where everybody takes the role of a character. At the end of the activity the participants will be offered a snack or *mata-bicho*.

Packs related to the Smuggling Activity

There are several guided routes and visits to know the different settings related to smuggling. Emblematic places of interest such as the Ethnographic Museum, the community oven or the typical cellar are included. Performances on different situations, for example when the bundles were being loaded or the smugglers were arrested to be questioned by the officers, are also shown.

Routes along the *Promiscuous Villages*

Can you imagine living in a house whose rooms belong to different countries? That is the way it was in the *Promiscuous Villages*. You can bring back life in the past in these villages, which were placed on the same borderline and created genuine episodes and conflicts related to smuggling. ~



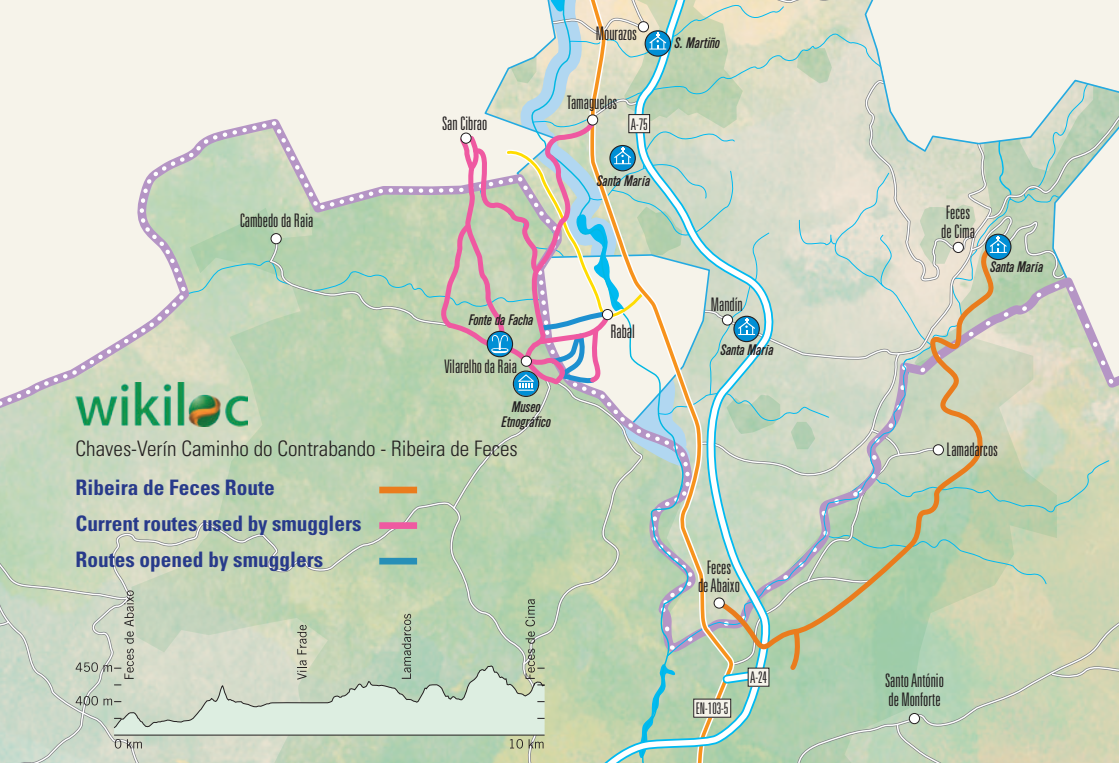
For further information:

Tourist Information Network



Chaves~Verín
the Water Eurocity

- (See inside cover).
- visitchavesverin.com



Ribeira de Feces Route

Do it on your own

On the left bank of the river Tâmega there is a signposted route which runs along ancient paths for smuggling. The route follows the paths which witnessed the smuggling activity of all kinds of goods such as wolfram, cereal and coffee. These paths were also the way out for migrants and refugees in the times of dictatorship. The route climbs up for almost 10 km. It goes through Feces de Abaixo and across several farm fields to get to the border, marked by the river Feces, which can be crossed by means of *poldras*. The route in Portugal climbs up to Santa Marta Sanctuary and goes through the villages of Vila Frade and Lamadarcos. It becomes more challenging to follow the way up to Feces de Cima, but it is just for 3 km. We make our way back down the path. ~

You can download your brochure in VISITCHAVESVERIN.COM



Wine and Food Tour of the Border

Visits to cellars

Wine cellars are a good starting point to get to know the gastronomy of an area where vineyards are the protagonists of the scenery. The valley of Tâmega shares two designations of origin; D.O. Monterrei on the north and D.O. Trás-os-Montes (subregion of Chaves), on the south.

Wine cellars that allow you to visit them and taste their wines. Check timetables because farm labours limit availability. ~



Snacks

The border is a genuine gastronomic space. It allows us to see how in a few kilometres, an area with the same geography (the valley and slopes that surround it) and the same raw materials have developed different recipes. ~

For further information:

- Monterrei: domonterrei.wine
- Trás-os-Montes: cvrtm.pt



Find these products in our menus

In Chaves

- Ham, *alheira* and *fumeiro* (smoked pork in a traditional way) are the most typical pork products in Chaves.
- *Cocido* and broth in the style of Trás-os-Montes.
- Pork from a local breed (*porco bísaro*), which is being included in new recipes.
- Typical cakes from Chaves, (Protected Geographical Indication) and *folar* (meat bread stuffed with different types of pork).
- Cod, a typical Portuguese recipe prepared in different traditional ways; beef, kid goat and *milhos* (fried cornmeal).
- Desserts: *rabanadas com mel* (slices of bread with honey).

In Verín

- *Cocido*, the star of the winter gastronomy. You must also taste the *bandullo* (pork belly stuffed with meat).
- Chestnut from Galicia, with Protected Geographical Indication, which is being used for new recipes.
- *Carne ó Caldeiro* (a traditional Galician recipe made with beef), octopus and roast lamb or kid are typical recipes from Galicia that you can find well prepared and ready to serve in Verín.
- Peppers from Oímbra, also with Protected Geographical Indication and grown in the valley.
- Desserts: *torta do cigarrón* and puff pastry cones filled with custard.

Weekly markets

In Chaves: on Wednesdays; in Verín: every month on the 3rd, 11th and 23rd; in Vidago: on Thursdays. ~

LEARNING ABOUT OUR WINES...



MUSEO CLAUSTRO MERCEDARIO

- D.O. Monterrei wine permanent exhibition
- Praza da Mercé. Verín

D.O. TRÁS-OS-MONTES SUB-REGIÃO DE CHAVES CELLARS

CASA AGRÍCOLA OLIVEIRA MONTEZ

- Travessa do Outeiro, 254-Loivos. Chaves
- +351 276 908 386 | marco@travessiaiwine.com
- penadawine.com

FAIOURA SOCIEDADE VITIVINÍCOLA

- Casa do Barrío. Rua Eng. Morais Sarmento-Faiões. Chaves
- +351 919 844 306 | jms@cssa.pt
- palmerimdeinglaterra.com

HEAD ROCK

- Estrada Nacional 2, 25-Vila Pouca de Aguiar
- +351 918 634 059 | headrockwines@gmail.com
- @HeadRockWine

NOBREPONTE

- Casa Grande do Seixo-Seixo-Vidago. Chaves
- +351 276 341 106 | geral@casagrandedoseixo.com
- casagrandedoseixo.com

POLDRADO WINES

- Estrada Municipal 533, 64-Anelhe. Chaves
- +351 938 504 195 | geral@poldrado-wines.pt
- poldrado-wines.pt

QUINTA DE ARCOSSÓ

- Lugar Penedo do Lobo, 9-Arcossó. Chaves
- +351 965 393 914 | quintadearcosso@sapo.pt
- quintadearcosso.pt

VINHO DE MONTERREI ROUTE CELLARS

ADEGA CREGO E MONAGUILLO

- Rúa Nova-A Salgueira. Monterrei
- 988 418 164 | tito@cregoemonaguillo.com
- cregoemonaguillo.com

ADEGAS LADAIRO

- Rúa Ladairo, 42-O Rosal. Oímbra
- +34 988 422 757 | info@bodegasladairo.com
- bodegasladairo.com

BODEGA ABELEDOS

- Rúa Principal, 7-Tamagos. Verín
- +34 616 571 938 | adegaabeledos@gmail.com

BODEGA PAZOS DEL REY

- Rúa Carrero Blanco, 33-Albarellos. Monterrei
- +34 988 425 959 | info@pazosdelrey.com
- pazosdelrey.com

BODEGAS DANIEL FERNÁNDEZ

- Quintas de Arriba-Queizás. Verín
- +34 988 590 864 | alberto@bodegasdanielfernandez.com
- bodegasdanielfernandez.com

FRAGAS DO LECER

- Rúa Touzo, 22-Vilaza. Monterrei
- +34 616 670 129 | bodegaboorivero@yahoo.es
- bodegaboorivero.com

GARGALO

- Rúa do Castelo, 59. Verín
- +34 988 590 203 | gargalo@gargalo.es
- gargalo.es

PAZO DE VALDECONDE

- Rúa Principal, 75. Verín
- +34 988 422 773 | bodega@pazovaldeconde.com
- pazovaldeconde.com

QUINTA DO BUBLE

- Ladeira Machada-Casas dos Montes. Oímbra
- +34 988 422 960 | info@quintadobuble.com
- quintadobuble.com

QUINTA SOUTULLO

- Av. do Carregal, 106. Oímbra
- +34 651 488 915 | quintasoutullo@gmail.com
- quintasoutullo.com

VALDERELLO

- Rúa Maximino, 4-Albarellos. Monterrei
- +34 988 411 199 | valderello@yahoo.es

VÍA ARXÉNTEA

- Rúa Progreso, 61-Vilaza. Monterrei
- +34 687 409 618 | viaarxentea@viaarxentea.com

VINOS LARA

- Rúa As Tuelas, 50-Cabreiroá. Verín
- +34 988 413 931 | info@vinoslara.com
- vinoslara.com

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