

Directions & Maps

To the Museu



1. From Quinta Dos Tres Rios, head southwest on N337 through Parada de Gonta 2.8 km
2. Turn left onto N2 850 m
3. Turn right to merge onto IP3 toward Viseu 6.8 km
4. Take exit 17 to merge onto A25 toward Espanha/Viseu (Toll road) 62.4 km
5. Take the exit onto IP2 51.5 km
6. Take the IP2 exit (EN102) to Vila Nova De Foz Côa 350 m
7. At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto N102. 3.9 km
Go through 2 roundabouts

AT THIS POINT, YOU SHOULD SEE VERY GOOD SIGNAGE DIRECTING YOU TO THE MUSEU. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE STREET NAMES BELOW.

8. Turn right onto Rua Dr. Francisco Sá Carneiro 180 m
9. Continue onto Av. Monsenhor António Almeida Silvano 210 m

10. Turn left onto Rua da Oliveira 100 m
11. Take the 1st right to stay on Rua da Oliveira 250 m
12. At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit 150 m
13. Turn right toward Rua das Moreirinhas 210 m
14. Slight left onto Rua das Moreirinhas 75 m
15. Turn right 2.0 km



Arrive at Foz Côa Museu

To Marialva from the Museu



1. Take IP2 to Marialva exit 18.0 km
2. Merge onto N102. Pass through 1 roundabout 8.7 km
3. Turn right onto N324 / Estrada Nacional 324. 0.4 km
4. Take the 1st left. 0.9 km



Arrive at Marialva

Rock Engravings, Douro Wines, Castles

Day Trip to Museu do Parque Arqueológico (Côa Valley) — Vila Nova de Foz Côa
Drive 131 km, 1 h 27 min

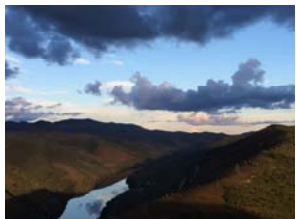


Quinta dos Três Rios

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Rock Engravings, Douro Wines, Castles

Day Trip to Museu do Parque Arqueologico (Côa Valley) — Vila Nova de Foz Côa



Côa Valley

This trip is recommended for people including mature teenagers who appreciate history – in this case, the history of the inhabitants of this area of Portugal long ago.

You will see rock engravings made from over 20,000 years ago to more recent times. The entire region is picturesque and not commonly visited by foreign tourists. It may be muddy on the trail, so select appropriate footwear, especially if it has been raining. Also, be sure to take a bottle of water!

You will need to telephone at least a day in advance to reserve the guided tour (€12) which departs from the Museu do Parque Arqueologico do Vale Côa (351-279-768-260). Schedule your tour at 10:00 or 10:30 am as a tour during the cooler morning hours is more enjoyable.

Allow at least 1 1/2 hours to arrive at the museum from Quinta dos Tres Rios. Leave the Quinta no later than 8:15am to arrive in Vila Nova de Foz Côa by 9:45 am. The Museu is situated several kilometers east of town and you will need to place close attention to the somewhat abundant signage which takes you through neighborhoods and eventually down a paved road which has rock walls on both sides.



Foz Côa Museu

The Museu is a modernist structure consisting of mostly unpainted concrete, on both the interior and exterior. Your guide for the field tour will most likely speak English quite well and will be a source of all kinds of information. You will be informed of the discovery of the rock engravings in the 1980s as a result of an archeological survey of the area which was required prior to building a dam on the Côa River. The dam was never constructed due to the discovery of the rock engravings and the ensuing protest marches and public pressure which forced the authorities to abandon the project.



Typical 4x4

The field tour is conducted using a 4X4 vehicle to take you to the trailhead. After a short walk down a minimally maintained trail, you will arrive at the banks of the Côa River. Your guide will show you the engravings which you will be allowed to photograph and touch. Afterwards you can tour the Museu to see replicas of several rock tablets and many other interesting visual displays. You can spend one hour or more in the museum which has several rooms, each designed to address a different aspect of the Côa River discovery. By this time, you should be ready for lunch and will find that the museum restaurant, bright with large glass windows overlooking the Côa River valley, is appealing, both visually and food wise. There are many good choices on the menu, including vegetarian entrees, at reasonable prices. There is also an excellent restaurant and Wine Bar in Vila

Nova de Foz Côa called Aldeia Douro which has more complex fare than the usual Portuguese home-cooking. Foz Caffè is a good choice for traditional cuisine and is located on the main road between the town center and the IP2.



Aldeia Douro Wine Bar



Igreja Matriz

After lunch, you have several choices. You can walk around town looking in the shops and visiting the Igreja Matriz (the primary Catholic church) which is constructed in the Manueline style. The Douro River is a few kilometers to the north and you can drive to Pocinho for a wine tasting with Elena at Perdigota. Turn left before you cross the Douro River and look for an adega sign on the left after passing the old train station.

You can also visit one of the many castles in the area. The ruins of Castelo Melhor lie past the Museum on the east side of the Côa River valley. Another good choice is Marialva which



Castle at Marialva

is on the west side of the IP2 approximately 25 km south of Vila Nova de Foz Côa on your way back to the A25.