



The ecotrail provides a unique experience of fruition and living memory. On foot or by bicycle, the path of about 11 km lends itself to a relaxing and safe promenade, starting at the mouth of the Mau river, which flows into the Vouga river, by the border with Albergaria-a-Velha, up to the frontier of the municipality of Sever do Vouga with that of Oliveira de Frades.

By traversing the path the old railway carved into the landscape, the Vouga Ecotrail offers us the opportunity to cross train tunnels, as if we were entering the heart of the earth; to cross the bridge over the Poço de S. Tiago, which is one of the main points of interest in the region; to pass by the former Paradelas train station, now converted into an area for cultural activities and food services, also with a bicycle rental service; to pass by the old halt of Cedrim; and to pass through all the surrounding nature. As to the latter, it is awe-inspiring for its green and yellow colors, and some of the original biodiversity and riparian galleries are still preserved, especially on the site pertaining to the Natura 2000 Network.

The fauna and flora that are native to local forests, rivers and riverbanks, form a particular ecosystem in Sever do Vouga that is important to protect and preserve. There is now a greater awareness of the need to sustain native tree species, such as oaks, elms, chestnut trees and the delightful orange trees, which once decorated the entire landscape.

THE OLD RAILWAY

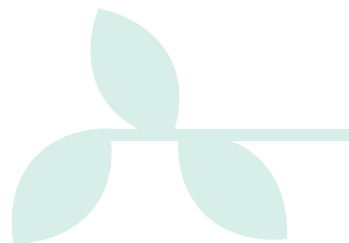
The VOUGA ECOTRAIL is like the writing of our History. Each sentence is a step of the way.

Come along and go for a pleasant walk, as if you were reading a book and turning the pages of our memory.

Here is Sever do Vouga!



**NATURE
STORYTELLING**
by Sever do Vouga



LEARN MORE AT

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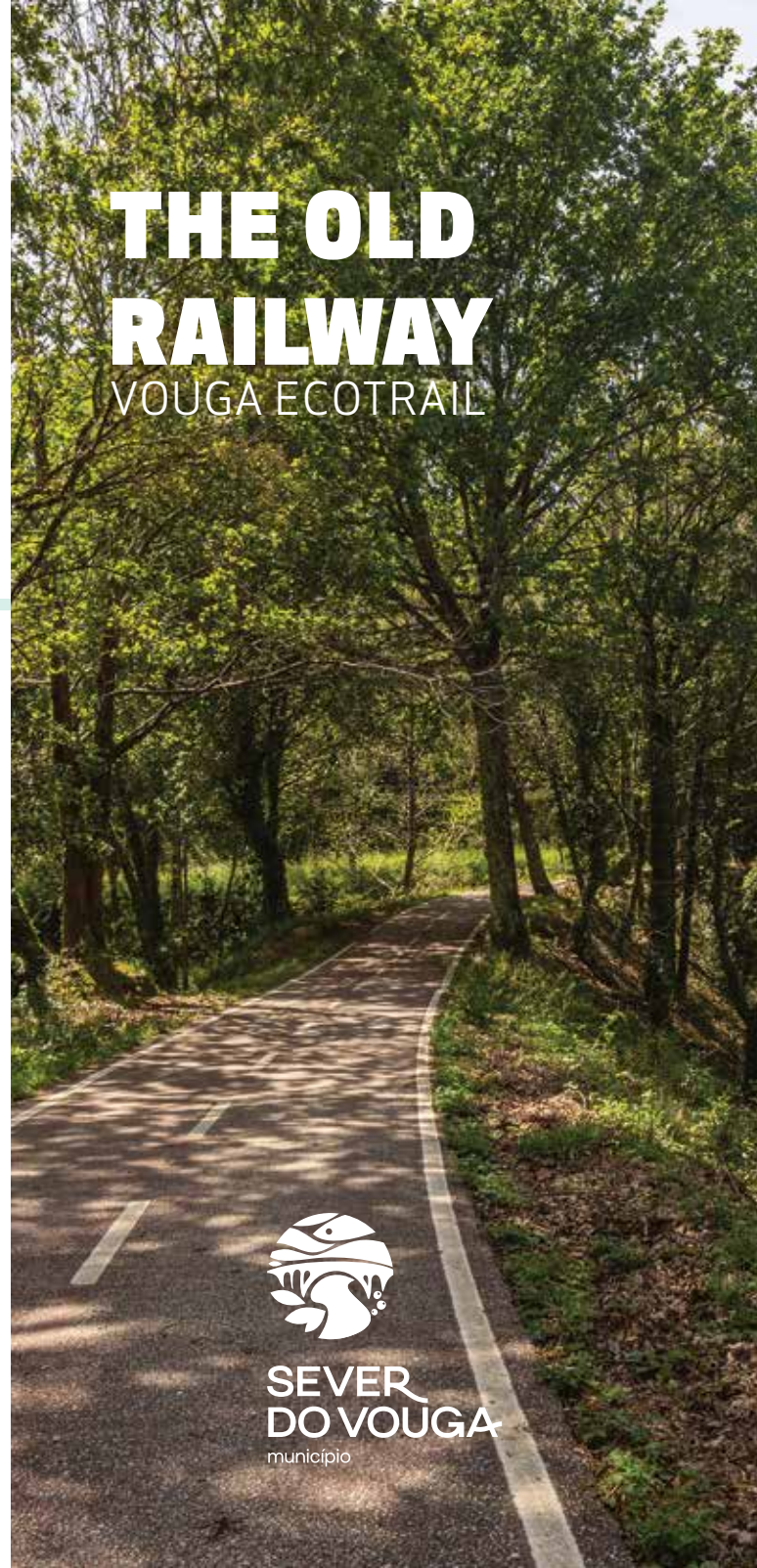
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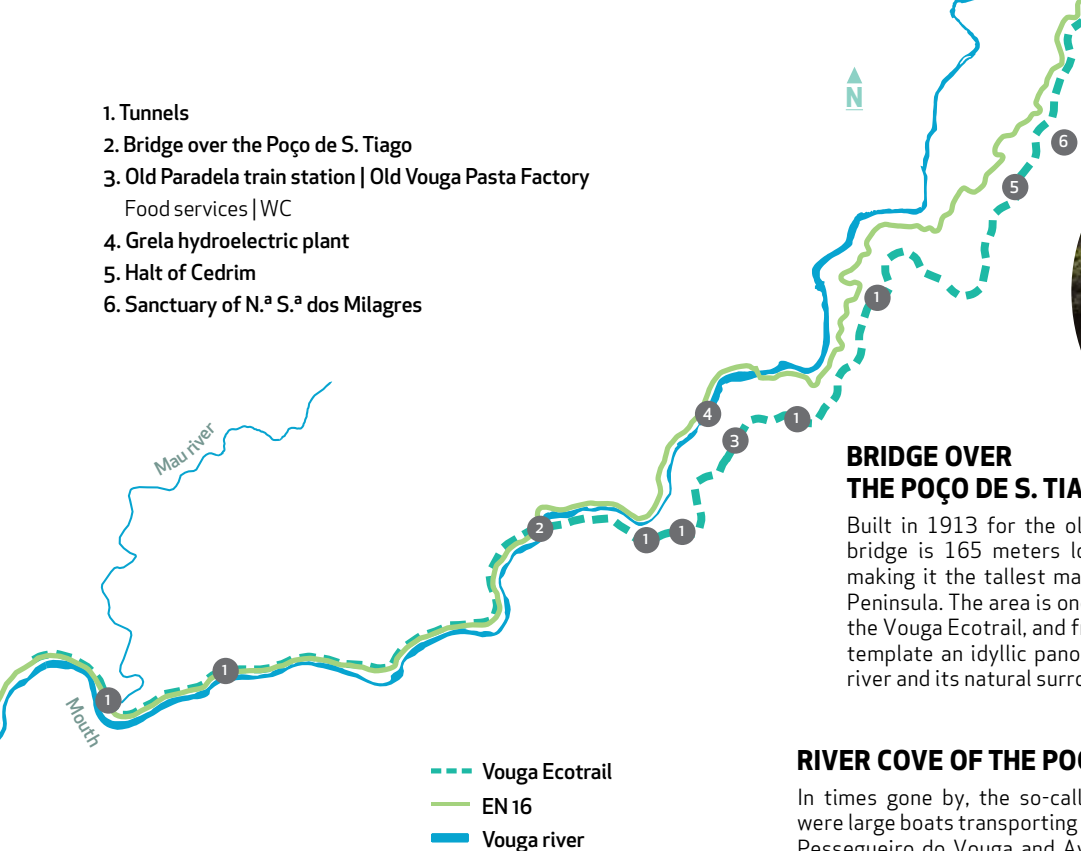
THE OLD RAILWAY

VOUGA ECOTRAIL



**SEVER
DO VOUGA**
município

1. Tunnels
2. Bridge over the Poço de S. Tiago
3. Old Paradela train station | Old Vouga Pasta Factory
Food services | WC
4. Grela hydroelectric plant
5. Halt of Cedrim
6. Sanctuary of N.ª S.ª dos Milagres



- - - Vouga Ecotrail
- EN 16
- Vouga river

SEVER DO VOUGA STORYTELLING...

In times gone by, the steam train of the Vouga valley railway could be seen approaching the old Paradela station coming from Aveiro, after traversing forests, tunnels and a bridge, along the slopes of the mountains and the river.

Apart from the economic importance (which was considerable) of the steam train, it is the indelible nostalgia of those who remember those days that evidences how impressed such recollections have become. All individual and collective memory is part of cultural heritage. It is through our heritage that we tell our stories, which breathe life into natural and constructed spaces.

In the first decade of the 21st century, the old railway was transformed into the Vouga Ecotrail, the first of its kind to appear in the Aveiro region.

BRIDGE OVER THE POÇO DE S. TIAGO

Built in 1913 for the old railway, this century-old bridge is 165 meters long and 28.5 meters high, making it the tallest masonry bridge in the Iberian Peninsula. The area is one of the main attractions of the Vouga Ecotrail, and from the bridge you can contemplate an idyllic panoramic view over the Vouga river and its natural surroundings.



RIVER COVE OF THE POÇO DE S. TIAGO

In times gone by, the so-called “mercantéis”, which were large boats transporting tons of goods between Pessegueiro do Vouga and Aveiro, used to dock in this cove. The daily comings and goings were intense, as it was the only connection between the municipality and the outside world, before the construction of the railway. All that hustle and bustle of the 40s and 50s of the previous century has given way to the tranquility of the natural environment and of the imposing Bridge over the Poço de S. Tiago, whose monumental beauty we can now enjoy.

TRAIN TUNNELS

The railway used to pass through eight tunnels excavated on the slopes of the Vouga valley. Today, only six tunnels remain open. Instead of echoing the rumble and trepidation of the steam train, the tunnels are now peaceful passageways, integrated into nature and enriching the experience of wonder for those who traverse the ecotrail on foot or by bicycle.



VOUGA PASTA FACTORY

Built between the 20s and 30s of the last century, the mill and the hydroelectric plant that powered it were a reference in the industry for decades. The factory compound closed in the 90s, but the large silos and the hydroelectric plant at Grela are still standing today. Part of the factory building, whose façade still reads “Vouga – Pasta Factory”, was converted into what is now called VougaPark – Business Innovation Center, which has generated a renewed business momentum and has provided business training for the promotion and development of the region.

HALT OF CEDRIM

As the train reached Sever, it also brought development with it to other locations in the area. Cedrim do Vouga saw the construction of a halt, as the railway from the Vouga valley to Viseu progressed, becoming a mandatory stopping point for loading and unloading goods and people.

The hustle and bustle of businesses installed nearby (a warehouse of building materials and agricultural products, an olive press and a distillery) was a clear sign that progress had also arrived.



NATIONAL ROAD 16 (EN16)

As we travel along the ecotrail, we are following closely a section of the National Road 16 (“Estrada Nacional 16” – EN16). Its historical importance to Sever do Vouga is significant, since before it was built the only major transport route was to navigate the river. Built in the 30s of the previous century, around the same time that the railway was also being built in the region, the new EN16 followed the river to connect Aveiro and Sever do Vouga, continuing from the latter to Oliveira de Frades, Vouzela, Viseu, Guarda... up to Vilar Formoso. The EN16 is under a heritage listing procedure, within the project “Historical Roads”.

