

**T**he 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.



**The Smugglers' Road** goes around some of the 'raiana' populations whose neighbours tell stories about the nights out, across the other side of the bush, to take coffee, grain and all sorts of goods. The trafficking of goods was made in either direction, depending on the historical moment and the difficulties that the people of either country were going through. Beyond a local phenomenon, this trade could be a State policy, as in the case of tin exports, of military interest, prohibited to countries not declared as non-belligerent. Not only goods crossed this border, with the complicity of residents, political refugees and emigrants also crossed here.

**The whole 'Raia' between Chaves and Verín**, in small towns and roads stories are told, in which smugglers and armed forces take central stage. A journey through the history that makes us reflect on legal issues and justice. This route takes you along roads and villages that still keep in their memory events difficult to find in the books because, it was simply better to keep them secret.



**Route:** Smugglers Road

**Start:** Feces de Abaixo. Eurocidade Chaves-Verín headquarters  
7° 25' 22.07" W / 41° 48' 44.68" N  
29T X 0631005 Y 4630151

**Final:** Feces de Cima  
7° 22' 54.48" W / 41° 51' 13.46" N  
29T X 0634323 Y 4634803

**Distance:** 10 km

**Duration:** 2.5 hours (outbound)

**Altitude:** Lowest: 365 m  
Highest: 452 m  
Average: 407 m

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Chaves:** +351 276 348 180

Chaves Tourism Office. Terreiro da Cavalaria

**Verín:** +34 988 411 614

Tourist Information Office. Hnos. La Salle, s/n

**Vidago:** +351 276 907 470

Vidago Tourism Office. Largo Miguel de Carvalho



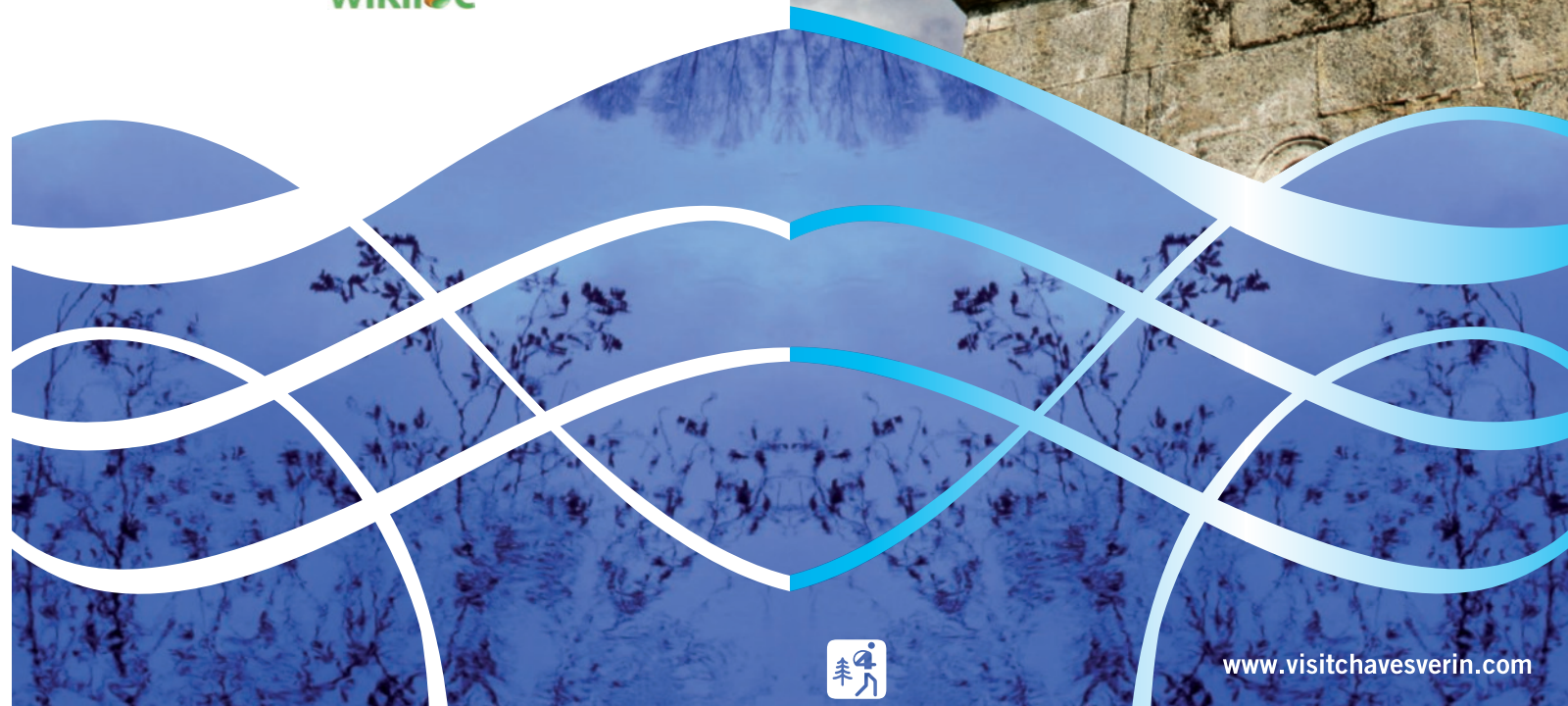
[www.visitchavesverin.com](http://www.visitchavesverin.com)

Chaves-Verín Caminho do Contrabando - Ribeira de Feces

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# Smugglers Road

## Ribeira de Feces Route



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## THE ROUTE

**Access.** The route starts in Feces de Abaixo, at the border with the same name. There is still the old Spanish position control, where one can request information. This building is now the headquarters of the Chaves-Verín Eurocity, symbolising, walking from the 'Raia', the union of municipalities and countries. The route is a linear path, with return through the same path.

**A route to climb.** The route crosses Feces de Abaixo and returns to the border between the cultivated fields. Through a few polders, it crosses the Feces brook, which marks the limit between countries. In Portugal, it starts to ascend to the Sanctuary of Santa Marta and heads towards Vila Frade and Lamadarcos. From here to Feces de Cima runs the most demanding stretch, but which in any case, does not involve great difficulty and there remain just over 3 kilometres until the end of the route. When returning, if you go back on your steps, the descent prevails.



**Border villages.** Enjoy the route by observing the landscape and getting to know the places through which it passes. Until very recent times they have remained distant from all communication channels and big cities of each of their countries. This isolation made them look to each other, establishing relations between the inhabitants, generation after generation. Since long before Europe dispersed the borders, these people were considered neighbours rather than strangers. Family ties, interchange and smuggling, bond these population centres.



## DO NOT FORGET

### Tips:

- Check the weather forecast and choose your clothes wisely.
- Wear comfortable, breathable shoes, light clothing and a hat.
- Take some rest during the route.
- Also plan the time and return route.

