

Ruta VERÍN termal Magua VIDAGO

portoenorte[,]

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COOPERACIÓN TRANSFRONTERIZ E S P A N A – P O R T U G A I COOPERACÃO TRANSFRONTERIO

EURO-REGIÓN **(** termal y del agua

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VERÍN CHAVES VIDAGO

and water route

Fonte do Sapo mining-medicinal water, Verín

The assets of the Eurocity in mining-medicinal springs gave birth to modern spas in the late modern period. During the golden period of thermalism, which was developed since mid-nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth century, the spas became big social centres where the best part of civil society used to meet. As time went by, only a few survived the decadence or avoided closing even though nowadays, localities like Chaves and Verín are able to offer a miscellany of thermal experiences (mining springs, rivers, fluvial beaches, thermal baths and spas). Only a few territories can do it and that is one of their characteristic features, together with the cross-border sense that produces the mystery of *raia*.

The Eurocity has proved itself as a place of thermal touristic excellence, with an integrated vision composed by territorial attractiveness and an innovative quality offer in the area of infrastructure and specialized services with a variety of thermal and mining-medicinal springs. The existence of these resources forms an important source of opportunities to receive the classification of thermal tourist destination and to develop an area of tourist excellence focused on health and welfare.

Chaves and Verín are two territories with solid cooperation and exchange bonds since remote times, with a common history and really similar social and economic features. The existence of similar resources, not only historical-artistic but also gastronomic, natural, ethnographic and environmental ones, builds a cross-border space that shows the important role that thermalism played in the past and still plays at the moment thanks to the work carried out by the administrations (local, provincial, autonomic and national).

THERMAL AND WATER EUROREGION

The project **Thermal and Water Euroregion** was approved within the Spain-Portugal Cross-border Cooperation Operative Program 2007-2013.

Its main object is the consolidation of a common cross-border strategy for the coordinated development of training and research within the sector of thermal and water tourism in the Galicia-North Portugal Euroregion, as point of reference of high-quality thermal offer in Europe.

The partners of the project are the *Deputación Provincial de Ourense* (Provincial Council of Ourense), the *Secretaría Xeral de Turismo da Xunta da Galicia* (General Secretariat of Tourism of the Regional Government of Galicia), the Council of Verín, the Municipal Chamber of Chaves, Tourism of Porto and North of Portugal, the Portuguese Society of Medical Hydrology and the Association of Thermal Baths of Portugal.

Water is the identity of the Galicia-North Portugal Euroregion and thermalism is the best resource to constitute a distinguishing element to revitalize the economy. Both countries would like to jointly pledge their firm commitment to the sector of health and welfare tourism, which should become the key for their economic development.

The results to be reached are turning the Galicia-North Portugal Euroregion into a referent of thermal waters in the south of Europe, training high-



ly-qualified professionals and carrying out pioneering research on water natural resources.

The Galicia-North Portugal Euroregion is the area of the Iberian Peninsula with the highest number of thermal springs and it has significant endogenous resources due to the quality and quantity of its springs and natural mineral waters.

Thus, the mineral water bottling industry is consolidated, as well as the industry of thermal services.

Although the direct geographical intervention area of this project will be the cross-bordering areas of Galicia-North Portugal, the sphere of influence of these activities will be extended, specially, to other areas with thermal sources in the Euroregion.

This influence will be important to improve the training of the professionals of the sector, but it will be much more significant in the field of research, given the objective of the project of contributing to disseminate the results achieved. The project will have a multiplying effect together with the other regions of Spain and Portugal and it is expected to be recognized as a good international practice.



The territory of the Galicia-North Portugal Euroregion is located in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula and is currently characterized by its strong social, economic and cultural interrelation.

The space formed by both regions covers a total surface of 51 thousand km^2 and houses a population of 6.4 million inhabitants, which is translated into a population density of 125.8 inhabitants / km^2 .

The Chaves-Verín Eurocity is made up by the territory covered by both town councils at the valley of Alto Támega in the north of Portugal and southeast of Galicia, respectively. Chaves covers around 591 km², distributed among 39 parishes, and Verín, around 94 km² organized on 15 parishes.

Most of the population (18,500 inhabitants) is concentrated in the city of Chaves, capital of the municipality. The total population is higher than 41,000 inhabitants, taking into account the periurban perimeter and rural areas. The city of Verín is the seat of the city council and has more than 10,000 inhabitants, exceeding 14,000 in the whole territory.

Apart from the regional and main roads of both municipalities, Chaves also has the divided highways A-7 and A-24. The latter is connected to A-75, which crosses the area of Verín, linking to A-52 or the divided highway of Rías Baixas. This network of roads



Panoramic view of Chaves



provides Chaves and Verín with a privileged and strategic position within the economic context of the North-West of the peninsula. Both cities are less than 20 minutes away from each other.

The city of Vidago is located 16 kilometres away from Chaves. It is a parish belonging to the city council of Chaves, with around 1,200 inhabitants. It is geographically located at the bottom of a valley, where Ribeira de Reigaz and the Ribeira de Oura meet.

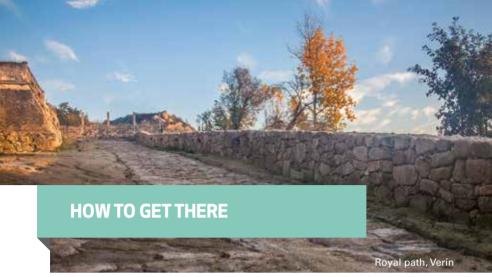
The greatest concentration of thermal water and mining-medicinal springs of Europe is located in the territorial area of Chaves-Verín. These resources are a significant source of opportunities to receive the classification of Thermal Tourist Destination and to develop an area of tourist excellence focused on health and welfare.

This abundance of waters is the result of a tectonic fault, the Fault of Corga, which crosses the cross-bordering territory and leads to a high density of mining-medicinal waters in the Valley of Monterrei and Alto Támega. Given this common origin, they share really similar physic-chemical characteristics, being mainly distinguished by the temperatures at which they emerge.



Thermal treatment in the thermal baths of Chaves-SPA of the Emperor





By car

From Madrid, take the divided highway A-6 (toll) until Benavente and, then, take the divided highway A-52 (free). Duration of the trip: 3h 45 min.

From Vigo, take the divided highway A-55 (free) until *O Porriño* and, then, take the divided highway A-52 (free). Duration of the trip: 1h 30 min.

From Santiago de Compostela, the access is from the divided highway AP-53 (toll), until the crossroads with the divided highway A-52 and then continue towards Ourense-Benavente until Verín. Duration of the trip: 1h 40 min.

From Oporto, take the freeway A-3 (toll) until the exit to Guimarães and then take the freeway A-7 (toll) until Vila Pouca de Aguiar, where it meets A-24 (Portuguese electronic toll). Duration of the trip: 1h 30 min.

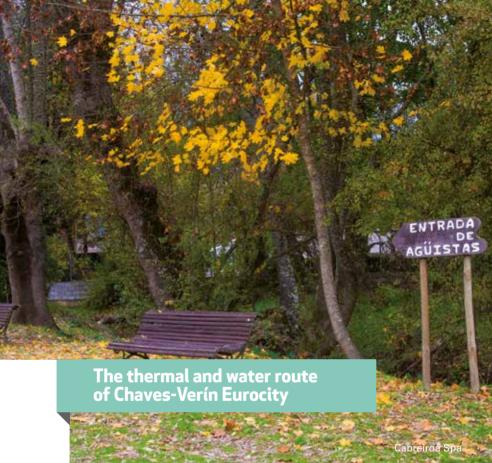
By plane

The Eurocity is located less than 2h away from five airports (A Coruña, Vigo, Santiago de Compostela, Valladolid and Porto) and 3h 50 minutes away from the international airport of *Barajas* (Madrid). The nearest airports are: Porto, Vigo and Santiago de Compostela.

By train

The nearest train station is in A Gudiña (Spain), 30 km away from Verín.





The objective of the "Thermal and Water Route of Chaves-Verín Eurocity" is to create a route that connects the spa heritage of Verín with those in Chaves and Vidago, linking the main springs, spas and thermal waters of the area of the Eurocity, continuing and shaping a global route within the geographical limits of this Euroregion.

The route combines the circular urban routes of both municipalities with a cycle-tourist route that goes along river Támega.

The urban routes of the municipalities, Verín, Chaves and Vidago show the historical, natural and cultural heritage. In addition, the urban water route in Verín connects the five springs of mining-medicinal waters of the municipality.





Main route Verín-Chaves-Vidago

Total length 46.4 km

Estimated time 46 min by car

Necessary material

For the urban routes within the global route it is recommended to bring a backpack, water, sportswear and comfortable footwear

Information

this route can be completed only in one day and by car Entrance to Vidago Palace Spa

Chaves and Verín are urban centers with a common background; they are social and geographical neighbors; they share many resources (ethnographic, historical-artistic, gastronomic, natural, etc.) and complement each other in such a way that an area of tourist excellence focused on health and welfare is developed.

Nowadays, the town of Verín is characterized by its mineral waters, which are an industrial reference and an icon of popularity for the locality. The existence of three spas (Cabreiroá, Sousas and Fontenova) and two springs (Caldeliñas and Fonte do Sapo) make up a territory that proves the important role played by thermalism in the past and even now.

River Támega, link between the two municipalities, crosses Verín and runs southwards, through the old part of the town, with its emblematic places, such as *Casa do Escudo* (the House of the Shield), *San Lázaro's* chapel, the parochial church *Santa María a Maior*, the house of the *Acevedo* and, finally, the convent church *da Mercé*.

The exit from the village towards Chaves is through road N-532 until reaching road A-75. After having covered around 17 km, we enter Portuguese land, following then road A24 until the exit to EM506 that will take us to the urban center of Chaves, the Roman *Aquae Flaviae*.

The route in Chaves lets us admire the Torre de Menagem (Tribute Tower) in the medieval castle, the perimeter of the wall, the São Francisco and São Neutel's forts, the Roman bridge of Trajano, the Matriz (Mother Church) and La Misericórdia's churches, the typical balconies in Direita street, the Mansion of Dukes of Braganca's and the Roman thermal baths, reminder of a glorious thermal past. We cannot forget the exuberant banks of river Támega, ideal to enjoy a walk on foot or by bike on the cycle lane or to enjoy the Thermal Baths of Chaves SPA of the Emperor, thanks to the modernization of its installations and the therapeutical quality of its waters.

Our trip continues through the valley of Támega, towards Vidago, the last locality included in the route. The beauty of its natural and peaceful surroundings and Vidago's Palace hotel make the city one of the most admired touristic destinations internationally, reminding the times of the *Belle Époque*. The quality of its thermal waters, which gained popularity and led to the town's magnificence in the second half of the nineteenth century, is a characteristic that still prevails nowadays.





HYDRIC RESOURCES

CABREIROÁ SPA

Estrada de Cabreiroá, s/n. 32600 Verín. Phone: +34 988 590 015 // +34 902 117 597 17°C

Low mineralized water: bicarbonated, sodium, lithium and acidulous.

Therapeutic indications: urinary tracts' conditions (renal colics, stones, nephritis and pyelonephritis, cystitis and urinary infections), gastrohepatic and gall disorders (dyspepsias, gastritis, hepatic colics, bladder disorders, stones or jaundice) and metabolic disorders (hyperuricemia and diabetes).

SOUSAS SPA

Avda. de Sousas, s/n. 32600 Verín. Phone: +34 988 410 230 18°C-20°C

Low mineralized water: sodium bicarbonated, lithium and slightly fluoride.

Therapeutic indications: kidney conditions, hyperchlorydria, gastralgia, gastric ulcer, chronic enteritis, hepatogenous jaundice, incipient stones and chronic prostatitis.

FONTENOVA SPA

Águas de Fontenova, S.A. Avda. de Sousas, nº 58. 32600 Verín Phone: +34 988 410 155 10°C-14°C (still water springs) 18°C-19°C (sparkle water springs) Low mineralized water: sodium bicardonated, lithium and fluoride.

Therapeutic indications: positive effects on uric stones, flank pain, rheumatism, gout, hepatic conditions, gastric dyspepsia and stomach and bladder conditions.

CALDELIÑAS SPA

Lugar de Caldeliñas. Verín.

At the moment derelict, it was closed for public access in 1960. 25°C

Medium mineralized water: sodium bicarbonated, lithium and fluoride, together with bubbles.

Therapeutic indications: skin conditions and rheumatic problems.

CHAVES THERMAL BATHS -SPA OF THE EMPEROR

Largo das Caldas, 5400-534 Chaves Phone: + 351 276 332 445 73°C

Low mineralized water: hyperthermal, sodium bicarbonated, meso mineral and carbonic gas.

Therapeutic indications: remedy to osteoarticular, musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, digestive and respiratory conditions, stress, fatigue and anxiety.

VIDAGO THERMAL BATHS -SPA VIDAGO PALACE

Parque de Vidago, apartado 16 5425-307 Vidago

Phone: + 351 276 990 920

17°C

Highly mineralized water: hypersaline, sodium bicarbonated, alkaline, slightly arsenic and ferruginous, fluoride, carbonic gas and a little radioactive.

Therapeutic indications: Conditions related to the nervous or digestive system, skin, and rheumatic and musculoskeletal conditions, hepatobiliary and gastroduodenal diseases, diabetes, obesity, gout and allergies.





HYDRIC RESOURCES GEO-REFERENCING









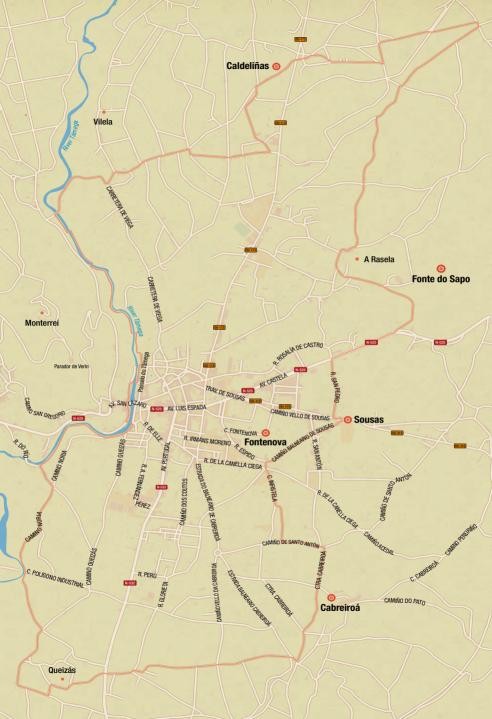


Chaves thermal baths – Spa of the emperor 29T X 0626994 Y 4621784









THERMAL AND WATER ROUTE 21st century's spa-goers A new thermal culture

Inner part of Buvette Cabreiroá

Mineral waters are still one of Verín's main industrial and popularity icons. The modern bottling industry lives together with the spas that have attracted countless people to this region for over a century. The route starts at *San Lázaro's* neighborhood up to river Támega's surroundings, and passes throughout the five mining-medicinal springs.

The first spa is **Cabreiroá**, located 1 km away from the old part of Verín. The waters of this emblematic spring were declared public waters in 1906. Its main promoter was the local notable and businessman José García Barbón who, together with the certificate on the waters' curative properties issued by Ramón y Cajal, gave the final boost to the construction of the spa in 1909. The secret for the excellent quality of its waters resides in its spring and the natural surroundings it is located in; the extraction of water from over 100 meters depth guarantees its purity and the preservation of all its qualities. Main route Verín's urban center and surroundings

Total length 18.6 km

Necessary material comfortable footwear and sportswear

Information possibility of taking this route by bike



The **spa of Sousas** is located in the outskirts of the town. The first premises date back from 1859, when its waters were declared public waters. Nowadays, the old stand and the spring it has inside are the only things which still remain.

The **spa of Fontenova**, formerly known as Espido's spring, was added in 1902 to this potential spa. According to some studies, its excellent properties were already known during the Roman period. In 1904, it was declared public water.

Finally, the hot springs of **Caldeliñas and Fonte do Sapo**, both located in the surroundings of the town and property of the local council. The first one, better known as *O Baño* ("The Bath") among neighbors, is currently in ruins, but its undamaged external structure is still a reminder of its magnificent past. Although there is not any historic reference until the early 20th Century, its history is complementary to the Sousas spring, since it offered the balneotherapy use that Sousas did not have, and it even belonged to the same owner. The spa was built on the 19th Century and, although it is currently in ruins after being closed for public access in 1960, one can still enjoy the beauty of this building.

The hot spring called **Fonte do Sapo** is the most popular one, located in a fresh and leafy place covered by stones, like a rustic fountain.











Fonte do Sapo Spring



CASA DO ASISTENTE (The assistant house)

Also known as Casa do Escudo (House of the Shield), it was built in 1737. It has a coat of arms on its main facade with the arms of Castro, Santa Cruz and Puga, It was declared historical heritage on the late 20th Century. Inside it we can find the pilgrim hostel, the exhibition rooms and the tourist information office

Urban route of Verín

The urban route starts in the oldest part of Verín's town, an emblematic place where Casa do Asistente ("the Assistant House") is located, popularly known as Casa do Escudo ("the House of the Shield") built in 1737. It was declared historical heritage at the end of the last century and the pilgrim hostel, exhibition rooms and tourist office are found inside.

San Lázaro's chapel (16th century) is located in the surroundings, and the cruceiro da Piedade (17th century) is opposite to the chapel. Some houses presenting the typical structure of the old Verín are found near them.

The route continues to the bridge over river Támega, next to which we can see the ruins of the old walls. Rúa Mayor is the entrance to the old part of the town and is characterized by its numerous houses with coats of arms, reflecting the former noble, commercial and administrative Main route historical part of Verín

Total length 2 km

Estimated time 30 minutes on foot

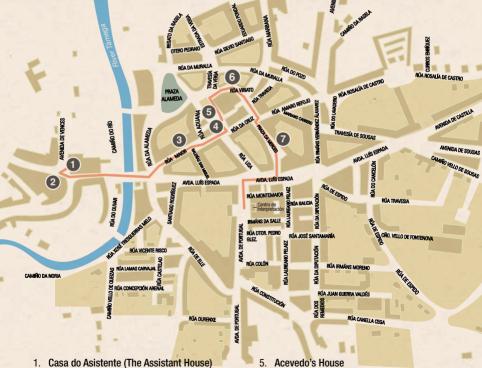
Necessary material

comfortable footwear and sportswear

Information possibility of taking the route with children

CHURCH OF SANTA MARÍA A MAIOR

Building of the 17th Century with subsequent additions. On the inside it is the chapel of Virxe das Dores with a carving of Nosa Señora and the Cristo das Batallas attributed to the sculptor Gregorio Fernández.



- 2. San Lázaro's Chapel Stone cross da Piedade
- 3. Church of Santa María a Maior
- 4. García Barbón Square

- 5. Acevedo's House
- 6. **Cigarrón Square**
- 7. Church da Mercé and Mercedary Convent

importance. Following the street, we arrive at the parochial church, **Santa María a Maior**, which has an attached chapel, called Los Dolores because of the Virgin it had inside, together with the Christ of Battles (attributed to the sculptor Gregorio Fernández).

Rúa Maior leads out to plaza de García Barbón. Here, we find the Acevedo's House on one side, where King Felipe el Hermoso held a meeting with Cardinal Cisneros in 1506. On the adjacent streets (Viriato, Pozo or Traviesa) there are emblematic sculptures such as the Cigarrón, the main figure on the Verín Carnival.

> The **convent church da Mercé**, one of the most important monuments in the town, is near the square. The cloister, church and tower follow the Baroque style with neoclassical features. Inside, there are several pieces of imagery, such as the Virgin of *da Mercé* and the main altarpiece (17th century). The Mercedaries abandoned the building during the period of sale of Church lands. It then became prison and town hall until 1950.

"O CIGARRÓN", main figure during Carnival in Verín

Two other cultural centers located in the historical part of the town are the House

of Culture and Verín's Visitor Centre. The first one contains the library, the cultural center and the auditorium; the building was donated by Mr. José García Barbón to the Salesians in 1893, with the aim of creating a school for the working class, which closed down in the 1960s.

The second building has three rooms providing information about the assets of Verín and the region through pictures: thermalism, heritage, gastronomy, etc., as well as other rooms holding temporary exhibitions.



CHURCH DA MERCÉ AND MERCEDARY CONVENT

The cloister, church and tower (1738) follow the Baroque style with neoclassical features. Inside, there are several pieces of imagery, such as the *Virxe da Mercé* and the main altarpiece (17th century), reliefs of Francisco de Moure (17th century) and the one of the Order foundation (17th century).







Támega's ecofluvial route

Fluvial area of Támega path

This route is part of a longer one that leads to Vidago. Támega river runs through the Eurocity like a link between all our lands and villages.

Considering Verín's urban center as the starting point, the route takes us along river Támega, through different landscapes: urban, rural and finally, an area of great natural value.

The first stretch is about 600 m long and runs along the river, surrounded by constructions, different public places of Verín's urban center, gardens and areas suitable for bathing, such as the fluvial beach. In this part, there are several bridges over Támega river, the oldest one being called *San Lázaro* (1853).

The second stretch is around 1,600 m long, near the river, and it is a semi-urban area of rural nature characterized by its diversity: on the left, there is a pedestrian path, 3-meter-long dirt tracks taking to houses and gardens, public faciMain route from Támega's urban area to Bosque del Placer

Total length 4 km

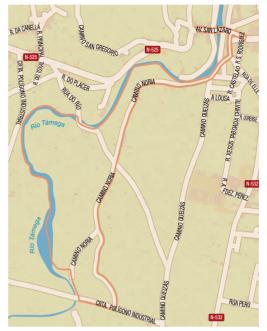
Estimated time 50 min.

Necessary material comfortable footwear and sportswear

Information

the route can be taken by bike, on foot and with children lities such as courts, parks and picnic areas, as well as a small section of asphalted road leading to detached houses.

The last part of the route crosses a fluvial ecosystem of around 1,200 meters, characterized by dense vegetation and its landscape and ornithological interest. It is part of Natura 2000 scheme, crossed by a path that combines flat areas and sheer slopes.





Fluvial area of Támega path

Surroundings of Támega river



Urban route of Chaves

Trajan's roman bridge

The urban route starts exactly on the ex libris of Chaves, the **Roman bridge**, also known as **Trajan's bridge**.

After crossing the bridge, the Aquae Flaviae thermal baths are located on the right side; they are a real spa in the Roman period. They were supposed to be therapeutic thermal baths related to the treatment of different diseases. They were discovered in 2004, being the most important Portuguese Roman spa, considered since December 2012 as National Monument, which will origin the Roman **Thermal Bath Museum of Chaves**.

If we continue along the **Direita street**, we can see the multicolored wood balconies decorated with flowers, which characterize this street with medieval features. It ends on the República square, where the **"pelourinho"** is placed, of manueline style, built in the 16th century and symbol of judicial autonomy. Keeping on with our route, we arrive at Camões square, where Main route Chaves' urban center

Total length 2.1 km

Estimated time 30 min on foot

Necessary material comfortable footwear and sportswear

Information

the route can be taken by bike, on foot and with children

- Roman bridge
- 2 Roman thermal baths
- Balconies of Direita street
- 4 Pelourinho
- 6 Mother church of Santa Maria Maior
- 6 Misericordia church
- Dukes of Bragança's Pazo/Museum of the Flaviense Region
- B Municipal Chamber of Chaves
- Torre de Menagem (Tribute Tower) of Chaves Medieval Castle
- Chaves thermal baths SPA of the Emperor

ROMAN BRIDGE

It was built between the first and second centuries, with a length of 150 m over the riverTâmega. Nowadays it has twelve arches and over it, on both sides, there are two epigraphic columns with honorific character.

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the most emblematic buildings of the city are located. The main **church Santa Maria a Maior** is a building made up by several styles due to the different restorations and additions along the centuries. On its side there is the **Misericórdia church**, of baroque style built at the end of the 17th century. On the inside, the walls are covered by decorated tiles from the 18th century, illustrating patterns and biblical scenes. The main altarpiece and a painting of 1743 stand out on the wood ceiling with the Visitation scene.

The Duke of Bragança's Pazo is located in the same square. This building was built in the 15th century as a residence for Alfonso I, duke of Bragança. Its current aspect dates back to the 18th century, time in which it took over military functions. During this period, the appearance of the building became monumental, with a long portal, decorated with laborious and artistic royal weapons made of stone. Since 1978, the building started being the place for the dependences of the Museum of the Flaviense Region, founded in 1929, where the Archaeology and Prehistory sections stay.

Next to it, we can find the building that hosts the **Municipal Chamber of Chaves**, built in the 19th century as a building plot for the residence of Vilar de Perdizes' heir, then sold by its owner in 1861 to the council for its new offices.

MOTHER CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA MAIOR

Romanesque in origin, it was restored in the 16th century, based on Renaissance models from the time, integrating in the structure two marvelous Renaissance facades.







Thermal baths Aquae Flaviae

MEDIEVAL CASTLE

100

1

Currently, it still has the *Torre de Menagem*, possibly built in the 13th century, and remains of the walls that used to surround the ancient citadel. Together with the forts of São Francisco and São Neutel, it was declared National Monument in 1938 and, since 1978, it houses the Military Museum.

The remains of the medieval castle, the **Torre de Menagem (Tribute Tower)**, possibly built in the 13th century, are next to the Chamber. In 1938 it was declared National Monument and since 1978 it hosts within its wide walls the Military Museum, with four exhibition rooms which show the Portuguese military history. From the top of the tower, there is a wonderful panoramic view of the valley of Chaves, of the wall and the gardens.

Torre de Menagem (Tribute Tower)

Finally, the Chaves Thermal Baths – SPA of the Emperor. Its waters are in the Roman origin and name of the city because its therapeutic properties were already really appreciated by the Roman people. These waters have a unique composition in the Iberian Peninsula; they emerge at 73°C.

The secular experience characteristic to them, together with the constant modernization and update of the techniques and equipment, make the **thermal waters of Chaves** one of the most remarkable spas of the Iberian Peninsula.

On the outside we can find the buvette and the village fountain, which offer for free the possibility of tasting a sip of thermal water, which equals health.



Chaves Thermal baths - SPA of the Emperor



Cycle lane of Chaves

This route includes a longer itinerary that will continue until Verín, following the course of river Támega, connecting the territory of the Eurocity Chaves-Verín.

The route combines a great landscape and natural value part and another one with urban character. It starts near the **bridge of Galinheira**, on the left bank of the river, going through green spaces, farming pieces of land and market gardens, until it arrives at the urban area of the Alameda de *São Roque*, in the parish of the *Madalena*. At this point, we can observe the Royal Hospital, built in the 17th century and, linked to this, the church of *São João de Deus*, dated from the 18th century.

Getting to the avenue of the *Madalena*, it continues on the river banks on the **Public Garden** direction. It is the oldest garden in town, opened in year 1901, an emblematic place in Chaves that throughout the times was preferably dedicated to the population's break and joy. The extensions with big leafy tress, the century-old cedars and the traditional kiosk are remarkable in this space.

Main route

from the bridge of the Galinheira, following the course of river Támega, until the urban area of Chaves

Total length 4.5 km

Estimated time 30 min by bike

Difficulty minimum

Necessary material

comfortable footwear and sportswear

Information

the route can be taken by bike, on foot and with children





Continuing the route, we get to the urban park, where the presence of water and green is constant. An ideal space to enjoy with a walk or by bike, a real oasis in the heart of the city. Following the left bank of the river, it continues over the **bridge of Agapitos**, that crosses the river towards the other bank. The route goes now on the opposite direction, passing the Alameda de Trajano, towards the pedestrian bridge, crossing the river again. From the **pedestrian bridge**, we can observe the small stones that cross the river and which were a linking point of the two banks throughout the years, being nowadays accessible, serving as leisure zone both for locals and visitors that do not miss the opportunity of challenging the journey through the river by jumping from stone to stone.

The **pedestrian bridge** connects the leisure areas in the banks of the river, making visible the continuity of the gardens of both banks, the Tabolado Garden and the **Public Garden**. This bridge was built in year 2008 within the frame of intervention of the Polis Program, which rezoned the area near the river banks, originating the implementation of a green zone cycle lane in the heart of the urban center of the city. This area is by far the best leisure area that is increasingly a reference point for outdoor sports and leisure activities in harmony with nature. The pedestrian bridge can be considered a present, modern piece of art, with a transparent and subtle style, consisting of a tower with a brace basis that fits easily in the landscape.







Railway station of Vidago

00.00

When we get to the town of Vidago, the first place to visit of the rural route is the **parish church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição**, located in the intersection of avenida Conde Caria with calle Faria de Morais. This Neo-Romanesque church was built on the first half of the 20th century. It is a religious building surrounded by a wide atrium, with the main facade decorated with a rose window. It shares features with the Romanesque churches in the North of Portugal.

Continuing through the same avenue, on the left side, there is a tree line that ends in the **old railway station**. The railway line of Valle do Corgo arrived in Vidago in 1910. It was with no doubt an important station because of the affluence of visitors that arrived in the village, thanks to the undeniable value of the mining-medicinal waters and the existence of one of the first hotels in the Peninsula. Nowadays, the facilities of the railway station will house the Pedagogical Spa of Thermal Research and Practices of Vidago. Main route urban center of Vidago

Total length 3.5 km

Estimated time 50 min on foot

Difficulty minimum

Necessary material

comfortable footwear and sportswear

Information

the route can be taken by bike, on foot and with children

PARISH CHURCH NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO

Neo-Romanesque style, its construction was started in 1933, and it is surrounded by a wide atrium with hundred-year-old trees. ALAMEDA TEIXEIRA DE SOUSA 2

RUA PADRE ADOLFO MAGALHÃES

N

R. MANL

N-2

1

AV. CONDE CARIA

B

4

1 Church Nossa Senhora da Conceição

2 Railway Station

ALAMEDA DR. ANTÓNIO VIANA

O Vidago Palace Hotel

4 Fountain 1

6

5 Salus fountain



Going back to the avenue, we find the luxurious Vidago Palace Hotel, which has various fountains of the famous thermal waters in its park. The fame of the waters from Vidago was spread, giving the village a period of great splendor in the second half of the 20th century, receiving the visit of kings and nobles in consecutive occasions. The discovery of the waters in 1863 was attributed to a farm worker who, having a stomach ache, drank from a water well, improving immediately from his pain and spreading his finding.

As time went by, Vidago became a spa-thermal bath stay with a 40-hectare-park, where there are 40 different arboreal species, some of them one hundred years old. The buvettes and the old spa, together with the Palace Hotel constitute a calm and relaxing park.

The waters of Vidago, bottled since 1886, can be tasted directly in one of the two fountains that appear in the surface in the Vidago Palace park, from North to South, the Vidago 1 and the Nascente de Salus.

The *buvette* from the **Vidago 1** is an interesting building with its Arab-influenced pavilion, followed by a gallery and a balcony to rest and for the ingestion of the waters. The *buvette* de **Salus** was built shortly after the First World War, with a classic façade made on stone and an interior with industrial environment of that time.





The chemical composition of water is slightly different from one fountain to another, sharing a high mineral content of iron, which is supposed to have therapeutic properties. It is recommended that the visitors follow the water route taking a small daily dose from every fountain, following the park paths from fountain to fountain. The valuable mineral water, naturally carbonated, is considered the best bottled water of the Peninsula, under the brands of Vidago and Campilho.

The luxurious **Vidago Palace** Hotel is located inside of the park of Vidago, opened in 1910. It is appreciated as a thermal retreat by the European elite, who used to come enjoy the famous waters of Vidago.

One hundred years after its opening, the big hotel is reborn again, thanks to the recovery work of the decorators José Pedro Lopes Vieira and Diogo Rosa Lã, and embellished with the incorporation of a renewed spa projected by the worldwide well-known architect Álvaro Siza Vieira.

Nowadays, the Hotel offers a series of services to its guests, such as a golf field with 18 holes, clubhouse, tennis field, swimming pool, guided walking tours through the park, besides the restaurant and conference center.

Thanks to all these factors, the village of Vidago is now an international tourist destination.





Salus fountain

MOAGO

Interior of fountain 1 in Vidago

Águas Vidago (Waters Vidago)



Welfare and health, thermalism and water are complemented by several leisure proposals that can be enjoyed in places such as Chaves' Casino or the 18-hole golf course of Vidago Palace Hotel.

The offer is completed by the tasting of quality wines with designation of origin, since Monterrei is a white *Godello* and red *Mencía*, to which this land has given a particular personality. The visitor can enjoy the wines from the Valley of Monterrei, which have moved up in the Galician and foreign market very quickly. Vine crops take up 3,000 hectares, 720 of which have the Monterrei's designation of origin (D.O.), counting on over 600 vine growers, 25 wine cellars and one million bottles containing around 2,000,000 kg of grapes, 65% white and 35% red grapes.

A quality wine is also produced in the hillsides of Chaves and Vidago, commercialized through the cooperative wine cellars of Chaves and Oura, and the Quinta de Arcossó.

The wine from the territory of the Eurocity can be tasted accompanied by some gastronomic specialties of the region such as roast kid or lamb, bread crumbs, trout casserole, corn, stew, bean stew, codfish, hunting meat, octopus, assorted Spanish tapas, ham and a great variety of smoked cured pork meat.











There is no doubt that the Eurocity is a territory that has always been oriented to the tertiary sector and one of its main activity focuses is commerce, which fulfills a basic mission of maintenance revitalization of the public space without forgetting its contribution to the development of the local economy, since it is one of the main sources of wealth and employment in both municipalities.

Considering the strategic value that the tertiary sector means, the commercial associations of business owners and shop keepers make an effort to compete and improve their position through dialogue with the public administrations and develop promotion common actions in their commerce influence area.

The commerce in both municipalities is formed by small establishments, located in the most central areas, with a varied and quality offer. They are, in short, small establishments close to the citizens,



where experience and professional treatment are a must for these businessmen.

The oldest shopping area of the village is located in the old town of Verín. The streets Mayor, Lisa, Calle de la Cruz and Amaro Refojo house the most traditional premises. Besides, a simple stroll is worth in order to admire in order to admire the architecture of the historical area at the same time. Handmade sweets, freshly baked bread, handmade preserves and marmalades, fresh vegetables and fruit. Their lovers should not miss the opportunity of going to these streets in case they want to appreciate the charm of the monumental area.

Do not hesitate and stop in this route if you want to get to know in detail its Cigarrón square, and of course García Barbón square, una-voidable meeting point during the festivities; while we go shopping, we can taste a delicious sweet *(lenguas de Obispo, cañas fritas...)*

Cañas fritas, typical dessert in Verín

or enjoy a Spanish tapa accompanied by a wine with designation of origin Monterrei, in one of the various bars that appear on our route in the old town.

In the main roads of the municipality like the street Luis Espada and the Avenida de Portugal there are financial entities, shops, service companies and administrative buildings. In the streets Laureano Peláez, Deputación and Hermanos Moreno, we have a wide range of possibilities to cover your leisure and purchase necessities. This area is a must, especially during summer, because of the large number of terraces from the nearby bars. The pedestrian street Montemaior has a vast hotel and catering offer, ideal to get a snack and go do some window shopping in fashion and complement shops.

Tradition and modernity go together in a municipality where establishments with great roots in the locality live together with the best selection of country products, fashion and complements, the most exclusive shoes, hairdressers,

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Opening times

The commercial opening times in the locality of Verín are from 10 am to 1:30 pm and from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm.



shoe reparation, optician's shops and the possibility of a snack in one of the multiple restoration shops distributed throughout the village.

Every month on the days 3, 11 and 23 the García Barbón and Alameda squares house a traditional and highly visited street market with a wide range of products, from 9 am to 2 pm. You will be able to do your shopping for really affordable prices: fresh products from the garden, widgets for the land, plants, furniture, antiques, clothes and endless items. When it is time for lunch, tradition still rules: *pulperías*, are spread around the village, they prepare the best octopus with copper pots, scissors, wooden table, the best olive oil, paprika and cooking salt to the consumer's preference.

Nowadays, Chaves' commercial activity is a hundred-year-old tradition because of various reasons: on the one side, the proximity to the border, which naturally promotes the exchange of products; on the other side, the range of gastronomic options full of flavor, tradition and quality, which sharpens the senses of the visitor, as well as the handmade products of the region, a know-how that was kept by different generations, where clay ceramic near Vilar de Nantes is remarkable.





Sabores de Chaves (Flavours of Chaves)

Chaves is, with no doubt, a real open shopping center, where what prevails are traditional stores and small family shops which are spread in the different big roads of the city, especially on the streets Direita, Santo Antonio, Cândido dos Reis, Longras and Cândido Souto Maior. Apart from traditional trade, the department stores in the avenue Duarte Pacheco and the City Park in the avenue da Cocanha also stand out.

Hand in hand with shopping centers, Chaves also has several fairs, some of them dedicated to selling assorted products and some others more specialized in typical products of the region. The traditional weekly fair takes place every Wednesday. In this fair, they sell "a little bit of everything" and, throughout the year several specialized fairs take place, specialized in regional products, under the brand "Sabores de Chaves". Once a year, the still traditional "Feira dos Santos" takes place. It is one of the biggest events of the flaviense city, which energizes all the local trade, attracting thousands of visitors.

In Chaves, the visitor can enjoy a great variety of *chorizos* (Spanish mildly spicy pork and paprika sausage) and other pork products, without forgetting the famous ham from Chaves.

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Opening times

The commercial opening times in Chaves and Vidago is from 9 am to 1 pm and form 3 pm to 7 pm.





We should add the pastel de Chaves, wine, chestnuts, liquors and fruit compotes.

In Vidago, the main commercial areas are located along the national road 2, in the Miguel de Carvalho square, avenue Conde Caria and on the street de la Plaza. In these areas there are assorted shops, supermarkets, taxi stops, kiosks, coffee shops and restaurants, among others.

Apart from the traditional trade, every Thursday Vidago celebrates its weekly fair, in the avenue Faria de Morais, where lots of assorted products are sold. The fair of products from the land and handmade products takes place in October, reporting the main economic activities of the village and where commercial, farm and handmade products are sold.



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Pizzaria Restaurante Itália Avenida Cocanha, 80 5400-674 Chaves Tel.: +351 276 341 476

Pizzaria Napolitana Av. da Raposeira, Ed. 4 5400-482 Chaves Tel.: +351 276 332 483

Pizzaria Testarossa Rua do Sol, 51 5400-517 Chaves Tel.: +351 276 328 054

Pizzaria MC Rua da Ponte, 22 5400-455 Chaves Tel.: +351 962 924 853

Restaurante 3 Cozinhas Urbanização Fernando Dias, Lote 4, loja 3 5400-590 Chaves Tel.: +351 276 323 953 Marisqueira O Príncipe Avda. Xavier Teixeira 5400-569 Chaves Tel.: +351 276 332 235

Marisqueira Branquinho Ed. Campilho Chaves

Churrasqueira Piu-Piu Avda. João I, 118 – Samaiões Chaves

Churrasqueira O Galo Av. Nuno Álvares, Ed. Nadir Afonso, Ioja 1 5400-419 Chaves Tel.: +351 276 322 817

Churrasqueira O Galo D'ouro Av. 5 Outubro, Ed. GDC, loja 8/10 5400-017 Chaves Tel.: +351 276 331 140

Churrasqueira Stadium Mercado Municipal nº 4/6 5400 Chaves Tel.: +351 276 332 095

McDonald's Av. Dom Afonso I Duque de Bragança 5400-025 Chaves Tel.: +351 276 321 760

VIDAGO

Bataclan Estr. Nacional 2, 172 5425-323 Vidago Tel.: +351 276 907282

Bringelas Estrada Nacional 2, 22 5425-323 Vidago Tel.: +351 276 907 231

Capucho Estrada Nacional 2, 228 5425 Vidago Tel.: +351 276 999 368 Casa de Souto Velho Souto Velho 5425-013 Anelhe - Vidago Tel.: +351 276 999 250

O Mário Estrada Nacional 2 5400 Vidago Tel.: +351 276 907 549

Quinta dos Carvalhos Rua João Oliveira 5425 Vidago Tel.: +351 276 907 241 Residencial O Resineiro Est. Nacional 2 5425-323 Vidago Tel.: +351 276 907 312

Pizzaria Gomes & Gomes, Lda. Rua José A Costa 5400 Vidago Tel.: +351 276 909 703



Black cemarics of Vilar de Nantes

Natural mineral waters menu



Cabreiroá

Waters from this emblematic spring are classified as bicarbonate. high sodium, high calcium, high lithium and acidulous. They are waters with digestive and diuretic effects. as well as relaxing effects for the nervous system. It is sold in three different modalities: Cabreiroá Sparkling Water, Cabreiroá Still Water and Cabreiroá Única (a 100% natural water, packed with very fine bubbles that naturally come from the spring, with no carbonic gas added).

Origin: Verín.



Campilho

Classified as bicarbonate, high sodium, carbonate-soda and with a great concentration of mineral salts. These waters are highly digestive and they help recover the minerals that the organism needs.

Origin: Vidago.

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Fontenova

These waters (carbonate, bicarbonate, high sodium, high fluoride and high lithium) are beneficial for the digestive system. They are offered in two modalities: natural sparkling (fine, digestive and with high mineralization) and natural still (low mineralization). Origin: Verín.



Sousas

These waters are characterized as high sodium bicarbonate, high lithium and low fluoride. They have low mineralization, they cause excellent depurative, diuretic and detoxifier effects. Their fluoride content makes them ideal for being consumed by nursing babies and kids younger than 7 vears old, avoiding dental fluorosis and caries. They are presented in two modalities: sparkling and still.

Origin: Verín.

ΠΓ



Vidago

Waters with high levels of salt, bicarbonate, carbonate-soda, and with low chloride and fluoride.

These waters, slightly acid and with a low level of natural gas, have great digestive effects. Because of their high concentration of mineral salts, they allow a fast recovery of the mineral salts in the organism. Origin: Vidago.

Termas de Chaves – Spa do Imperador