

CASA
AGRÍCOLA
da LEVADA

MUST DO LIST

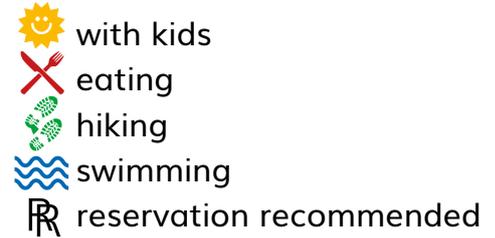
ALVÃO NATURE PARK

DOWNLOADING GOOGLE MAPS FOR OFFLINE USE

- > Open Google Maps;
- > Write the location name (ex. Vila Real);
- > In the upper left corner Menu, select Offline Maps;
- > Select Personalize Map;
- > Rearrange the area you want to select and choose Download.

HOW TO USE THIS LIST

Think of the recommendations as time slots for you to build your day. They are categorised so it is easier for you to select your favourites and plan your trip:



Each activity has a short description, some useful information and the distance from Levada (your starting point). Our front gate is Point Zero on our maps.

Feel free to share any comments or suggestions about this list. These are our favourite places in the area and we hope you will enjoy them as much as we do.

ALVÃO NATURE PARK MUST DO LIST

With only 18.000 acres/
7200 hectares, Alvão is one
of Portugal smallest and
most diverse protected
areas, with its stunning,
ever-changing landscape.
Established in 1983 to
protect the Iberian wolf and
other native species, the
River Olo rises here, with its
crystal-clear waters, natural
pools and waterfalls. Take
a trip to our lost Stone Age
paradise.

Must Do	Description	Information	Distance from Levada
N312-1 from Borbela to Lamas de Olo	<p>Borbela village</p> <p>Granitic area where you can see the great rocky formations known as the Muas. Marvel at the spheroidal granite, a chaotic landscape of giant scattered boulders.</p> <p>Alvão dams (upper and lower) at 3470 ft / 1058 m are only for fishing access.</p>	<p>The Alvão Nature Park is about 5 miles / 8 km northwest of Levada. Come out of the main gate and turn right at the main road. Take the first exit at the first pair of roundabouts you come to, and the second exit at the second pair of roundabouts. Then take the first turn on your left towards Lamas de Olo and Borbela (M1223). Inside Borbela village, keep going until you see the sign on the left to the Alvão Nature Park. Take a left and keep going all the way up the mountain for 6 miles / 9.5 km, from an altitude of 1400 ft / 426 m to 3470 ft / 1058 m.</p>	Km 0 to Km 16
Mountain Fountain	Obligatory stop on your way in or out!	Fill your bottles with delicious spring water.	Km 10.8
<p>Alvão Villages</p> <p>The smallest village has a population of 5 (Dornelas) and the largest, 483 (Ermelo)</p>	<p>The park inhabitants live sustainably. They subsist from cattle and goat farming – and a truck that brings them groceries twice a week.</p>	<p>Lush, green farmland of rye, potato and corn fields. Grassland to feed the Maronês cattle and a vast scrubland where goats and sheep roam year-round with their shepherds. Notice the tall vineyards, out of the cattle's reach.</p>	<p>Lamas de Olo Km 14.7 Dornelas Km 16.5 Anta Km 18 Pioledo Km 19.6 Barreiro Km 27 Varzigueto Km 23.5 Ermelo Km 32</p>

Must Do	Description	Information	Distance from Levada
Hike: Agarez to Arnal	 <p>Distance: 4 miles / 6.5 km Time: 2 hours Difficulty: Medium Altitude: 2300-3300 ft / 700-1000 m 41°19'21.25" N - 41.322552 / 7°47'32.15 - 7.792254</p> <p>Hiking trails are signposted. There is no cell service and we recommend that you never hike alone. Always take plenty of water, energy food, proper hiking shoes, clothing and sunscreen.</p>	<p>Starting at Agarez village, the hike takes you through the mountain region of Galegos da Serra, next to the Arnal stream, set in a deep canyon. The views of the surrounding hills and of Vila Real are breathtaking, with pastoral villages surrounded by grassland, roaming cattle and mountain goat herds. From the Eco School lookout, you can see the granitic summit of Arnal.</p>	Km 10.1
Hike: Lamas de Olo to Barreiro	 <p>Distance: 8.4 miles / 13.5 km Time: 4 hours Difficulty: Medium 41°21'26.00 "N / 7°47'43.32 "W</p> <p>Hiking trails are signposted. There is no cell service and we recommend that you never hike alone. Always take plenty of water, energy food, proper hiking shoes, clothing and sunscreen.</p>	<p>Starting at Alvão dam, this hike twists through a vast highland covered in purple and white heather and yellow crocus, grazed by herds of mountain goats and speckled with clusters of birch and wild pine. At the lowest point, you will see Mount Farinha and the gorgeous Our Lady of Grace sanctuary, well worth a visit for the breathtaking views. In Barreiro, wind-shaped granite masses cascade towards the village. From there you can return via the ancient granitic village of Lamas de Olo, or head west to Varzigueto and the waterfall at Fígas de Ermelo.</p>	Km 13

Must Do	Description	Information	Distance from Levada
<p>Hike: PR3 MDB Fisgas de Ermelo</p>	<p>Distance: 12.4 km (loop) Time: 4 hours 30 minutes Difficulty: Challenging Altitude: 327 to 771 m / 1000ft to 2500ft Best in Spring and Autumn 41°21'37.4"N / 7°53'21.5"W</p> <p>Hiking trails are signposted. There is no cell service and we recommend that you never hike alone. Always take plenty of water, energy food, proper hiking shoes, clothing and sunscreen.</p>	<p>The route PR3 - Fisgas de Ermelo, begins in Ermelo village, close to the parish church.</p> <p>Following this path, you will cross the Olo River and find two different swimming spots.</p> <p>This hike will take you through grazing marshlands dotted with granite and slate rural villages, a unique mountain landscape.</p> <p>Expect to see Maronês cattle grazing, and herds of wild goats in higher areas. This is a beautiful but strenuous hike, and can be challenging at times.</p>	<p>Km 32 (Ermelo)</p>
<p>Tasca da Alice Eatery (closed in September)</p>	<p>For most food served here, there is zero distance between the origin, the preparation and the point of sale! Alice, her husband and two sons run this small restaurant out of their homestead.</p>	<p>For a meal option in the Alvão Park, Tasca da Alice is in Bobal and we recommend the bread sausage (<i>alheira</i>) and black pudding sausage (<i>morcela</i>). <i>Pataniscas</i> are cod fritters, they go really well with a beef tomato salad, vegetable soup and a glass of white <i>vinho verde</i>.</p>	<p>Km 23</p>



Must Do	Description	Information
<p>Rio Olo</p> 	<p>Natural pools and waterfall. Crystal-clear water, granitic river. The magical sound of goat bells when a herd comes to drink. For a shot at having the pools to yourself, go from 10 AM to 1 PM.</p> <p>There is no cell service at the bottom of the ravine.</p> <p>If you would like us to prepare a picnic basket for your day out, we recommend a traditional <i>bola de carne</i>, a charcuterie pie that you can order at Reception the day before, considered the best in town. It will be ready for you to pick up at 10 AM. You can complement it with drinks and fresh fruit and vegetables from our Honesty Shop.</p> <p>Km 16.2 Dornelas Waterfall Km 23.7 Picoas de Cima Km 24.7 Fiskas de Ermelo (panoramic view) Km 28.7 Picoas de Baixo</p>	<p>Dornelas Waterfall (Km 16.2) 41.3786370, -7.8179450 Parking: 41.300637, -7.817945 The GPS will only work if you input Lamas de Olo and then Varzigueto. There is a steep hike down the rocks to get to the pools. Please wear hiking shoes and take care.</p> <p>Upper Pools/Picoas de Cima (Km 23.7) 41.379477, -7.863363 Parking: 41.382694, -7.859421 The GPS will only work if you input Lamas de Olo and then Varzigueto. Before Varzigueto to the right, park at the sign for Picoas de Cima and hike 600 m to the ponds.</p> <p>Lower Pools/Picoas de Baixo (Km 28.7) 41.372617, -7.878644 Parking: 41.370657, -7.890948 The GPS will only work if you input Lamas de Olo and then Capelinha do Fojo. Continue left and park at the sign for Picoas de Baixo. Please note there is a 1.6 km hike to the ponds unless you have a 4WD vehicle.</p> <p>Fiskas de Ermelo Waterfall (Km 24.7) Panoramic view The GPS will only work if you input Lamas de Olo and then Capelinha do Fojo. Follow the signs to Fiskas de Ermelo. There's a 900 m walk to the outlook.</p>

Must Do	Description	Information	Distance from Levada
From Lamas de Olo N312-1 to Ermelo N304	<p>Geological fault line. Lamas de Olo: dramatic granite mountains. Ermelo: lush, verdant and slate scenery.</p>	<p>Slate, granite and straw are the main materials used to build the traditional houses in Lamas de Olo, Anta and Ermelo, where time stands still and you will have a hard time believing Oporto is only an hour away.</p>	Km 14.7
Spend the Day with a Shepherd	<p>Spend the day with Carlos, grazing the goats in this gorgeous landscape. Learn how to communicate with the goats.</p>	<p>7 AM to 6 PM 1-4 people: 50€</p>	Km 12.2 (Arnal)
Rafting and Canyoning	<p>Outdoor activities tailored for beginner, intermediate or advanced levels. Extensive experience with family outdoor activities and fun adventure tours for kids of all ages. Located in Mondim de Basto, adjacent to Alvão Nature Park.</p>	<p>Vertical Dream Mondim de Basto 4880-212 verticaldream.org (+351) 964 452 546</p>	Km 37
Lunch or dinner in Mondim de Basto	<p>A charming town with quaint architecture and lovely squares to wile away the hours. A great place to sample Maronesa meat. You can come back through Alvão Nature Park (1 hour / 36 km) or take the IP4 for an easier way back.</p>	<p>For certified Maronesa meat with friendly service (the mixed grill is a great option) Adega Regional 7 Condes Rua Velha Travessa do Escourido 13 4880-256 Mondim de Basto (+351) 255 382 342 / 20€ pp</p>	Km 37





108 l of water and 0,6 kg of CO₂
were used to produce this booklet.

Don't throw me away - if you no longer need me,
please return me to Reception.