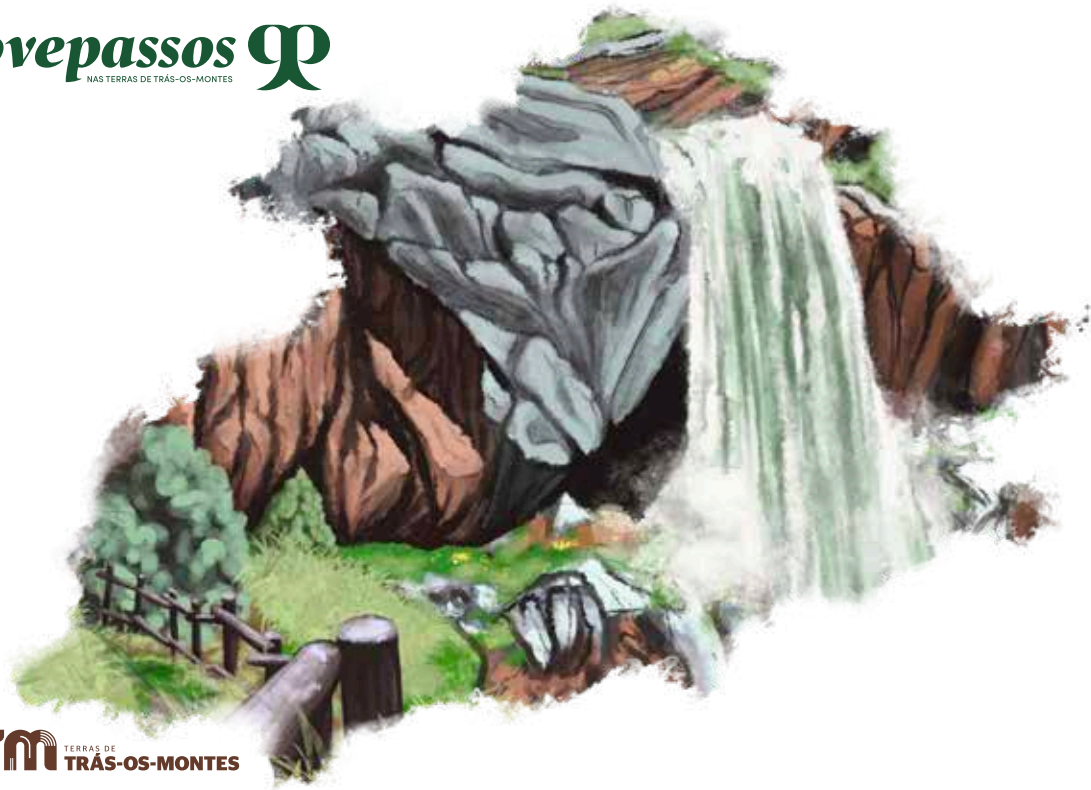


novepassos 
NAS TERRAS DE TRÁS-OS-MONTES



TTM TERRAS DE
TRÁS-OS-MONTES

Mogadouro



Cascata da Faia da Água Alta

Protected area

Douro International Natural Park

Location

Lamoso, Mogadouro

Cascata da Faia da Água Alta Trail

Located in the heart of the Douro International Natural Park, this trail ends in one of the most extraordinary places of this very rich protected area, the *Cascata da Faia da Água Alta*.

In the confluence of the Lamoso and Bemposta streams, emerges the tallest waterfall in Continental Portugal, with a topographical unevenness of approximately 40 meters. This very beautiful waterfall, notorious from the point of view of geology, geomorphology and landscape, is surely a 'must see scenery' in the *Trás-os-Montes* region.

It is regarded as a true natural 'sanctuary' (geomonument), considering its dimension and impressiveness. Is already classified as *Geosite*.

In geomorphological terms the waterfall corresponds to a *knick point*, that is, a watercourse with an abrupt change in its profile inclination, which is followed by a lagoon.

Starting near Lamoso, the Cascata da Faia da Água Alta trail is a short, initially linear trail, that ends on a circular stretch, zigzagging along the hillside. The final stretch goes along an impressive path with boardwalks and wood bridges. In spite of its short length, it is classified as a moderate difficulty level trail, due to the uneven reliefs of the path.

The waterfall can be observed from almost all the places of the hillside. The suggested point of observation, from the lower bridge, is just an indication of the best place to enjoy the view of the waterfall and the surrounding areas.

This trail can be visited the whole year, but the period of late Winter/ beginning of Spring is the best time to observe the waterfall in all its strength and beauty.

Fauna

The Cascata da Faia da Água Alta trail is clearly marked by rock-dwelling birds or rupicolous birds, most of which are species of great conservationist value. Besides them, along all the trail you can come across a diversified 'cast' of all vertebrate groups, with some species particularly curious and emblematic.

Typical species of the International Douro river cliffs, such as the griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), the Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) can be sighted regularly. The red-billed chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*), a curious corvid, rare and less known, is also present on these slopes.

In the surrounding rocky area of the waterfall, various common species occur, such as the Eurasian crag martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*), the common swift (*Apus apus*), the rock dove (*Columba livia*), the black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) and the rock bunting (*Emberiza cia*).

Along the first part of the trail, surrounded by shrublands and woodlands, you can observe some emblematic species, well-adapted to these dry Mediterranean habitats, such as the Iberian magpie (*Cyanopica cooki*) and the Eurasian golden oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*).

In the woodlands another particularly

interesting inhabitant is abundant, the European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*). Carnivorous mammals are present throughout the area. Among these the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) seems to be the most abundant. Other frequent species are the Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), the beech marten (*Martes foina*) and the Egyptian mongoose (*Herpestes ichneumon*).

Reptiles, such as the ocellated lizard (*Timon lepidus*) and the Algerian psammodromus (*Psammodromus algirus*), are also common. Sporadically, you may find snakes, such as the ladder snake (*Rhinechis scalaris*) and the least common horseshoe whip snake (*Hemorrhais hippocrepis*).



In the stream the most common species is clearly the Perez's frog (*Pelophylax perezii*), but, with a little bit of luck, you can observe the grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) and the grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*).

- The red-billed chough nests in rocky cavities and is nowadays a very rare species, in risk of extinction in Portugal

- In spite of being inoffensive the horseshoe whip snake has a tendency to get angry easily, simulating attacks, particularly the young ones

HORSESHOE WHIP SNAKE
(*Hemorrhais hippocrepis*)

RED-BILLED CHOUGH
(*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)



Flora and vegetation

From the flora and vegetation points of view the Cascata da Faia da Água Alta trail is very diverse, from woodlands to the watercourses. Along the Lamoso stream it is possible to observe Mediterranean riparian galleries, dominated by willow thickets of *Salix salviifolia*. These thickets occur along the most torrential parts of the stream. On the little marshes of these seasonal water courses, you may observe, in Spring, beautiful flowers of some ranunculus.



In the driest parts of the valley slopes it is possible to observe bridal broom shrublands, but when slope is more pronounced, prickly juniper thickets (*Juniperus oxycedrus*) grow on low deep soils.

There are also woodlands of dense broadleaf trees along the trail. Pyrenean oak (*Quercus pyrenaica*) woodlands occur on the highest parts, while cork oak (*Quercus suber*) woodlands appear as we are walking down the valley. At the bottom of the waterfall, in the areas with deposits from the slopes, grow ash tree (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) woodlands.

Here there are some plants that are noteworthy for their rarity, such as the tunicflower (*Petrorhagia saxifraga*) and the downy andryala (*Andryala ragusina*). This last one only grows in flood plains, restricted to the Douro and Tejo Internacional rivers.



- The tunicflower and the downy andryala are both RELAPE species in Portugal (Rare, Endemic, Localized, Threatened or In Danger of Extinction)
- For this trail are described about 130 taxa of vascular flora and 11 habitat types with community importance

LAMOSO STREAM WITH
RANUNCULUS FLOWERS

PETRORHAGIA SAXIFRAGA

Geology

The beginning of Cascata da Faia da Água Alta trail is marked by mica schists, with very vertical strata, as a result of crustal deformation to which they were submitted more than 300 million years ago. The orientation of these strata is perpendicular to the Lamoso stream flow. That fact as contributed to the formation of uneeven relief along the bedrock, where river giant potholes also occur.



Along most of the trail, the landscape consists mainly of granite, with some little but noteworthy morphologies, such as block chaos, slopes, isolated blocks and granite tors.



An aspect of particular geological interest, visible in the *Cascata da Faia da Água Alta*, corresponds to an important geological fault that demarcates the main bed of the Lamoso stream. On the main fault plane surface (mirror fault) you can observe shear strains, iron oxides and some clay.

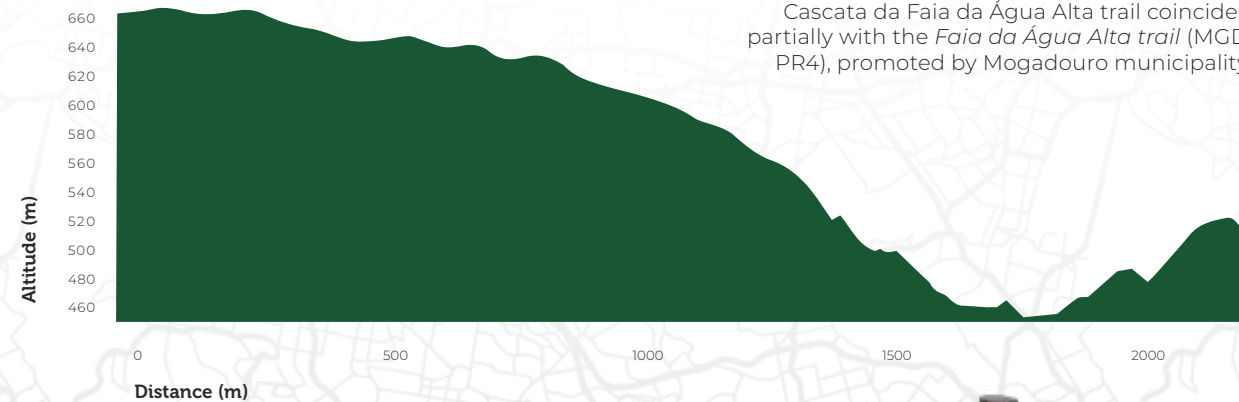
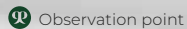
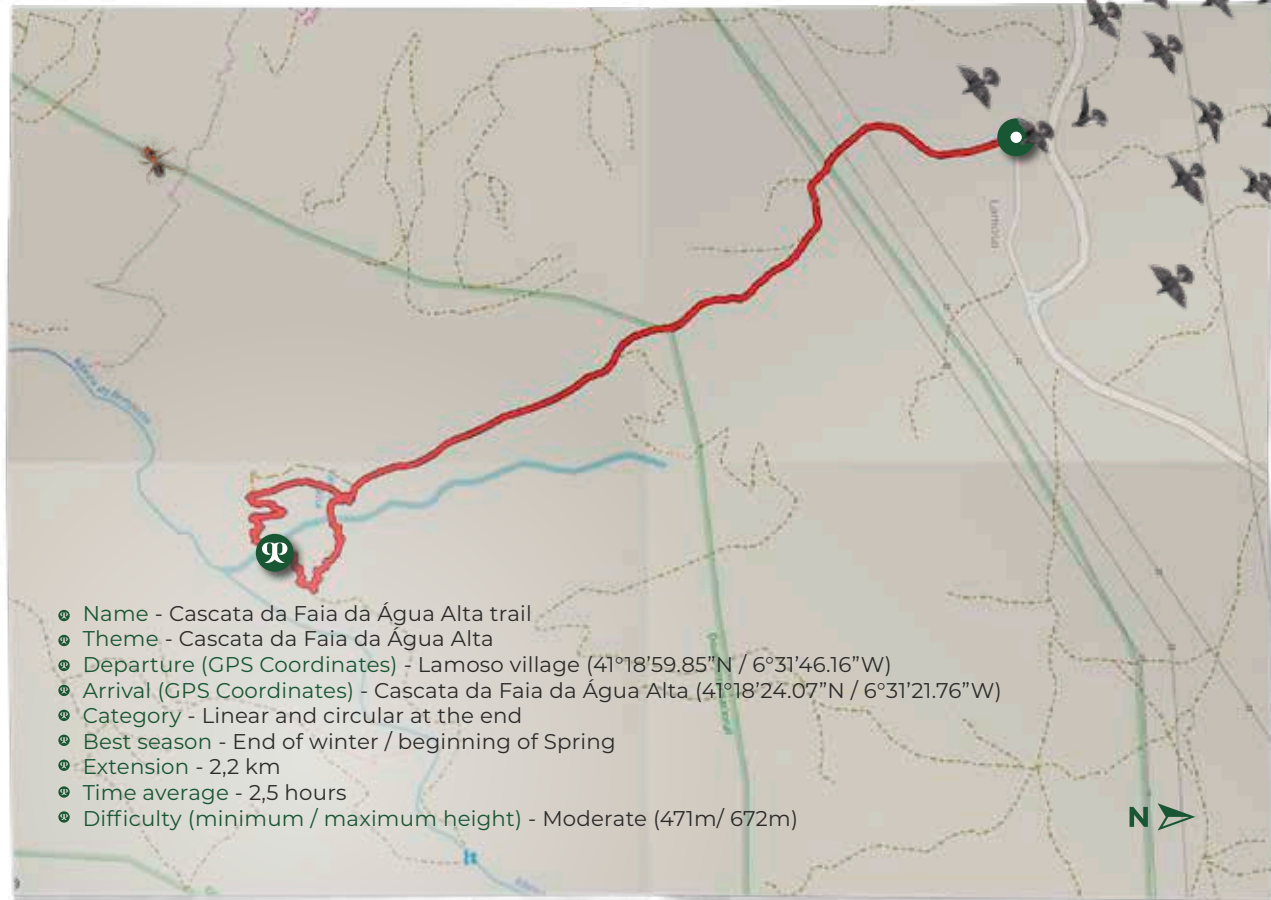


- The *Cascata da Faia da Água Alta* is the main geoform of the pathway and is classified as a geomonument of high scientific and heritage values
- The bed of the Lamoso stream corresponds to the remains of the old fluvial network that crosses schist as well as granite rocks

MICA SCHISTS IN VERTICAL
DISPOSITION

CASCATA DA FAIA DA ÁGUA ALTA

FAULT PLANE SURFACE WITH SHEAR
STRAINS AND IRON OXIDES



Cascata da Faia da Água Alta trail coincides partially with the *Faia da Água Alta trail* (MGD PR4), promoted by Mogadouro municipality

Useful contact numbers

- Town council (+351) 279 340 100
- Tourist office (+351) 279 340 501
- Fire brigade (+351) 279 340 020
- GNR (National Republican Guard) (+351) 279 340 210
- Forest protection (+351) 117
- SOS (+351) 112

Attention

- Follow only the marked routes
- Avoid noise and attitudes that disturb local peace
- Do not disturb animals, observe them from a distance
- Do not collect plants, animals, rocks or artifacts
- Do not light a fire
- Do not litter; please use the containers provided



In the Portuguese and European contexts, *Terras de Trás-os-Montes* (Lands of Trás-os-Montes) present a unique natural value, with extraordinary ecological and ecotourist potential, still unknown. It is a region with countless protected areas, rare species and incredible natural events.

The *Nove Passos* (nine steps) project aims to unveil this incredible natural heritage; while promoting the conservation of the region's main natural values, through the dissemination of 9 trails.

We thus suggest a complete adventure, carried out in 9 steps, one per municipality, all within the most important protected

areas for Nature Conservation in Portugal.

In each step, we suggest a carefully selected trail to explore specific natural themes, which, in one way or another, represent the natural areas where they are inserted.

The Cascata da Faia da Água Alta trail is one of the suggested natural steps. Come and meet them all and stamp your natural passport.

Visit these 9 themes of biodiversity, geology and landscape and become an expert in the *Lands of Trás-os-Montes*.



9 Cascata da Faia da Água Alta trail

Cascata da Faia da Água Alta - Mogadouro

Next steps

- 9 Sabor trail
Sabor lakes - Alfândega da fé
- 9 Carvalho trail
Red deer - Bragança
- 9 Quercus trail
Birds at the Azibo reservoir - Macedo de Cavaleiros
- 9 São João das Arribas trail
Vultures - Miranda do Douro
- 9 Vale de Lobo trail
Cork oak and prickly juniper woodlands - Mirandela
- 9 Vilarinho das Azenhas to Ribeirinha trail
River Tua riparian gallery - Vila Flor
- 9 Castelo de Algosó trail
The Angueira river fauna - Vimioso
- 9 Biospots (Alto da Círdelha) trail
Butterflies and other invertebrates - Vinhais





9passos.cim-ttm.pt

TERRAS DE **TTM**
TRÁS-OS-MONTES

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