



“Vocational Education for the Sustainable Development of Rural Enterprises”

Leonardo da Vinci, Association

First meeting

Pontevedra - October 17-20 /2012



Sustainable Rural Tourism

A Lama. Pontevedra. Spain



“River Barbeira Route”

or

“Path of Freedom”



Daniel Vidal has founded the Río Barbeira Association in 2008 with the idea of creating a new hiking route. His initiative grew soon. The effort to revitalize the cultural and social development of the parish of “A Escuadra” was the key to success. In a short time, due to the design and promotion of new activities in the area, he proved to the members of the association and other neighbors his capacity of organization, desire for progress and development of the site.

The association is composed of more than one hundred residents in the parish of “A Escuadra”, municipality of “A Lama”. They offer to other residents of the town and visitors an experience where prevails the idea of developing sustainable tourism to help to boost the economy of this rural area, prioritizing, above all, the quality of programs and respect for the environment.



Objectives

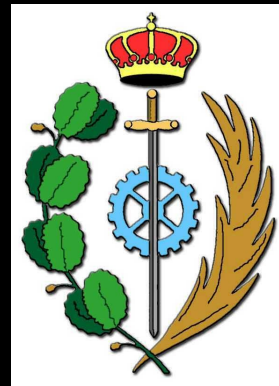
- To provide adequate information to visitors about the importance of the path.
- To create and divulgate a natural path, through the creation of a new hiking trail in this rural municipality.
- To clean and condition the area near the river Barbeira, in the parish of “A Escuadra”, where it will run the “Path of Freedom”. This work will be held for volunteers of the prison and the workers staff of the municipality.
- To protect and promote the natural and cultural rural heritage, while it enhances the idea of promote sustainable, responsible and fair rural tourism.

- To restore old buildings, as mills or bridges, constructed through ancient methods and with characteristics of popular and local architecture. Many of them are in poor conditions today.
- Revitalizing of the area through a promoting program of tourist activities that suppose a motor for change and a booster for the develop of rural tourism.
- Recover ethnography, history and culture and the natural environment
- Increase the benefits of tourism to the local economy and improve the quality of life for residents.



Who support this project?

- The members of the association
- Volunteers of Correctional Center of A Lama, who, because of the efforts of a group of inmates in the center, coordinated by an educator and accompanied in their work by a monitor, and some members of the association, got clean the riverside of Barbeira. After cleaning the area, they proceeded to the opening of the signaling route map. From that day, the name of the route was defined as "Freedom". Every year, since 2008, for nine months, it performs tasks of clearing brush and maintenance of the route.
- The municipality of A Lama himself works with the association, providing fuel for transportation and cleaning tasks.
- The community of "Montes", in the parish of "A Escuadra" also collaborates on the project, as for example, when they deviated the water flow for future operation of the mill.



**Comunidad de
Montes
da Escuadra
A Lama**



Partnership activities

“Barbeira river route

or

“Path of freedom”

The Route

It's a circular path about 20 km. It begins and ends in the parish of “A Escuadra”, and begins at the mouth of the river Verdugo.



Tras os pasos do Río Barbeira
Ruta da Liberdade

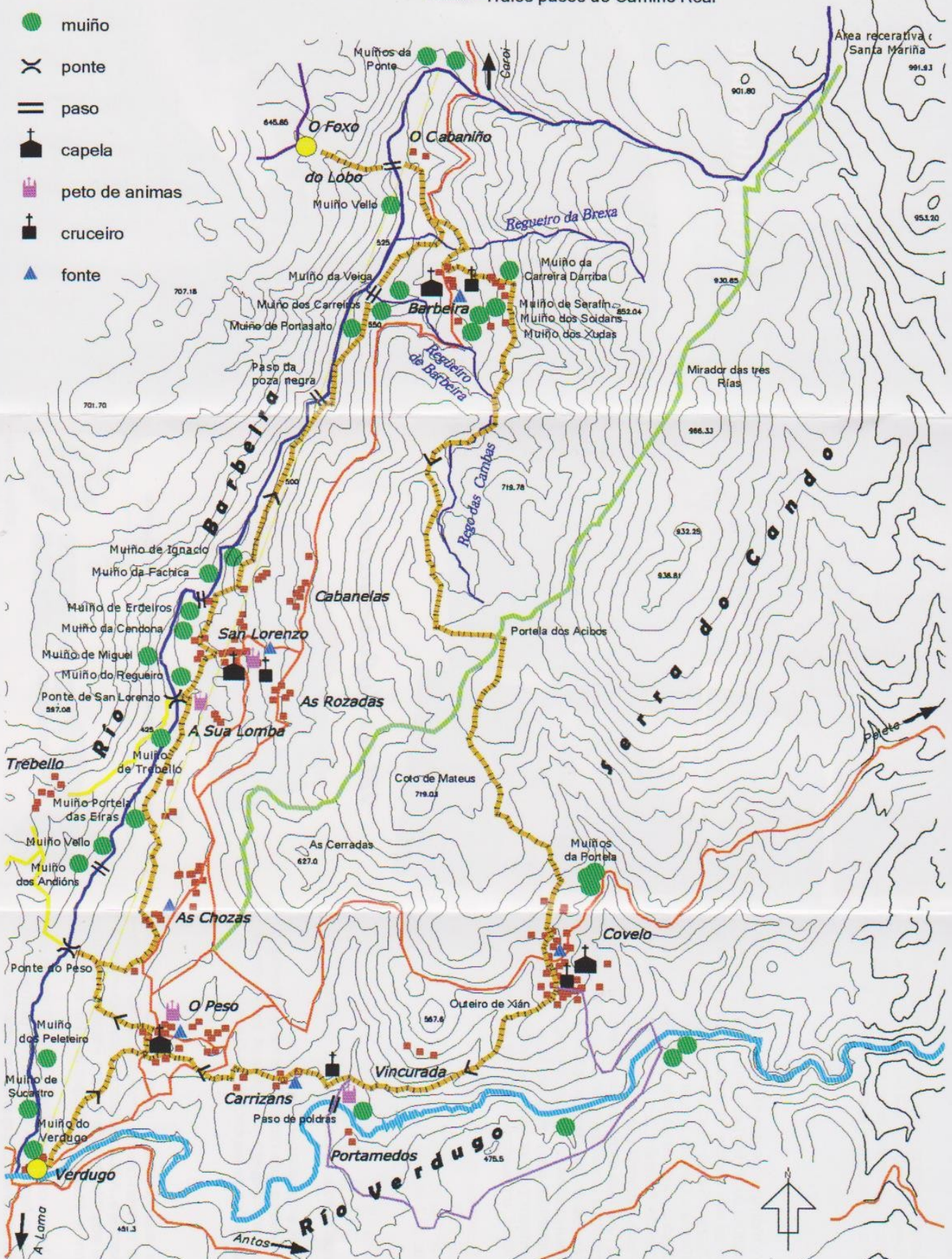
Ruta de Aguasantas

Estradas

"Roteiro da Escuadra"

"Tralos pasos do Camiño Real"

- aldea
- muiño
- ⌘ ponte
- || paso
- ⊕ capela
- ⊕ peto de animas
- ⊕ cruceiro
- ▲ fonte





Beautiful places are there, such as O Peso, Chozas, San Lourenzo, Barbeira or Carrizans.

A walk along this route takes about five hours. The landscape has mountains of medium height, and the trees that we can see are those that live at the riversides, like oaks, pines, acacias, birches or willows.

The difficulty is moderate and the maximum altitude is 742m.





Competition and Exhibition of Scarecrows

- **Once created the hiking trail, a lot of new ideas began to appear. Every year, before the summer, they celebrate a party, in which all the neighborhood is involved, to make known the route and to attract residents and tourists throughout the municipality.**
- **In that festival takes place a popular competition and exhibition of scarecrows with a big influx of entries. The scarecrows are exposed along the entire route, and while the party goes on, many walkers and visitors come to see the show, participate in the festival and in the ceremony of awards.**









Feast of the Galician oxcart

The neighborhood also has organized a party for the exaltation of the Galician oxcart and typical farm implements. This was possible, because many neighbors donated their old working tools, and these ones were exposed, for one occasion, along the entire route. Residents and visitors toured a section of the route with chariot drawn by cows, like old times.







Conditioning and restoration of mills, bridges and “*petos de ánimas*”

- Preparation and restoration of the dam of the mill of “A Fachica de Trebello”. The access to this construction was impossible because the weeds were there. After cleaning the area, the mill was restarted.
- Conditioning of the environment of San Lorenzo bridge and “peto de ánimas” as well as their access path, that belongs to the route.





As every year the prison inmates, neighbors of the parish of “A Escuadra” and the staff of the municipality, participate voluntarily in the cleaning and conditioning of the path. This year they have cleaned the road of Santa Mariña, road that is connected with the route of the “A Escuadra” near the belvedere of the “Tres rías baixas” with an altitude of 1000 m.

The work goes on, and the next stage of the project consists in to initiate the recovery of the mills of Vincurada, Sucastro and Barbeira.

