



➡ 40°34'20" N 8°27'1" W

## Day 10 | IN THE HEART OF THE BAIRRADA REGION Águeda ➡ Mealhada

The tenth day of the Route **begins in Águeda** at the Parish Church (Largo Dr. António de Mello), and **ends in Mealhada** at the Parish Church (Avenida Comendador Messias Batista). This stage is 26 km long, and it can be completed in around 6hrs. There are barely any difficulties along the way and the altitudes range from 5 to 76 metres. It is **an easy level of difficulty**, and makes its way through a diverse landscape of rural spaces and urban areas, which provide the ideal conditions for a **pleasant day's walking**.

Making its way across Central Portugal, between the Rivers Vouga and Mondego, the Route passes through the Municipalities of Águeda, Anadia and Mealhada. The landscape is defined by **plains and gentle slopes** covered with vines and fruit trees, as well as other crops. Amidst this rural setting there are important villages, towns and historic cities.

You will cross the **Bairrada wine region**, where the diversity and richness of the soil (clay, sand) and the mild climate are ideal for the cultivation of the various grape varieties used to produce the excellent (red, white and sparkling) wines. It is a classified wine producing region and its name “bairrada” alludes to the specific characteristics of the clay soils, which are particularly favourable to vine growing.

There is a rich **cultural heritage** with numerous monuments and cultural events. The **culinary arts** are of particular relevance, and in particular the “Bairrada roast suckling pig” and the excellent wines that go with it.

The **Route leaves** Águeda, and heads down to Praça da República, where you cross the bridge **over the Vouga**. Continue alongside the river, passing by the City Park. Always heading southwards, make your way through the neighbourhoods on the edge of the city, before making your way through leafy areas interspersed with the odd village. You will make your way through the parishes of Recardães, Barró and Aguada de Baixo,



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➔ 40°29'56" N 8°27'19" W

historic towns that grew up along the old thoroughfares. From time to time you will cross small streams, where there is abundant vegetation.

Next you make your way into the **Municipality of Anadia**, in the Parish of **Linhares do Caminho**, where you will see ever more wineries.

Then having crossed the **River Serra**, you will reach the city of **Anadia**, where you skirt around its historic urban centre along a pleasant and shady route. Just a few metres off our route, you can visit the **Bairrada Wine Museum**, devoted to the history and life of this region and its wine. Then having passed the Cinema-Theatre and made your way round the Municipal Stadium, continue along Estrada da Várzea until **Aguim**, a town that was the municipality's administrative centre from the twelfth to the nineteenth centuries.



Amidst verdant fields and woods, as well as farmers' fields, continue along the old roads as you pass through small villages. As you head towards **Mealhada**, you will begin to catch a whiff of the delicious traditional gastronomy (the Bairrada roast suckling pig). On entering the city prepare to end the day at the modern **Parish Church**. Ahead of you is the **Cinema-Theatre**, an interesting twentieth-century building, which was designed by the architect Rodrigues Lima and opened in 1940.

➤➤ 40°24'43" N 8°26'40" W

