



PORTUGAL

## Five Days Rewilding in Greater Coa Valley

Track wolves, watch birds and visit a UNESCO world heritage site whilst enjoy local cuisine during this five day experience throughout the Coa Valley in Portugal

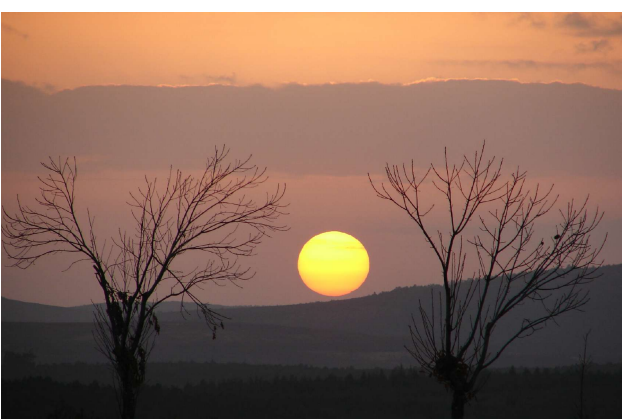


# HIKE THROUGH OAK FORESTS AND REWILDED NATURE

Faia Brava reserve is the first privately owned natural reserve in Portugal. It is bordered by the Côa River, it is **part of the Archeological Park of the Côa Valley**, a UNESCO world heritage site. Oak forests and former cropland returning to nature are home to griffons, Egyptian and black vultures, golden and Bonelli's eagles.

In this experience you will **learn how to track wolves**, enjoy hikes around the private reserve of Faia Brava, and get to know the rich **cultural and historical heritage of the Coa Valley**. The accommodations are charming family owned guesthouses in which you will feel like home sitting with a glass of some of Portugal's finest wines and enjoying delicious local cuisine and a beautiful view.

Fernado Romao will be your guide to the Faia Brava Reserve. He has been guiding in nature for 20 years. When he is not showing his beloved Coa Valley to guests, he can be found behind the camera as he is a well known photographer as well.



# DAY TO DAY PROGRAMME

## **Day 1**

Arrival at Casa da Cisterna. Free time or explore Castelo Rodrigo. Three course dinner and overnight stay at Casa da Cisterna.

## **Day 2**

Breakfast at Casa da Cisterna. Full day hiking or 4x4 safari in Faia Brava area, incl picnic lunch, with your guide Fernando Romao. Dinner at Casa da Cisterna. In the late evening, you will be taken to visit the rock engravings in the UNESCO world heritage site. Overnight at Casa da Cisterna.

## **Day 3**

Breakfast at Casa da Cisterna. Morning experience in the vulture hide with Fernando Romao, including a picnic lunch. Departure after lunch to Rio de Onor (self drive – 3 hrs). Arrival at Casa da Portela. Dusk wolf tracking experience with Duarte Cadete. Overnight at Casa da Portela.

## **Day 4**

Breakfast at Casa da Portela. Dawn wolf tracking experience with Duarte. Free afternoon in Rio de Onor. Overnight at Casa da Portela.

## **Day 5**

Breakfast at Casa da Portela and departure.



# DETAILS

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## **Days**

5 days/ 4 nights

## **When**

All year round

## **Accommodation**

Casa da Cisterna & Casa da Portela

## **Guide**

Fernando Romao and Duarte Cadete

## **How to get there**

Closest airport is Porto, but you can also use Madrid or Lisbon as your arrival gate into the Greater Coa Valley as well. You can rent a car from the airport for an easy 3 hr drive to Castelo Rodrigo. You can also reach Porto by train.

## **Languages**

English, Portuguese



# PRICES

## per person (based on 2 people)

- €1075

## Single supplement

€95

## Price includes

- Two nights incl breakfast and dinner at Casa da Cisterna
- Two nights incl breakfast at Casa da Portela
- Two picnic lunches
- Guided visit to Coa valley UNESCO rock engravings
- Full day guided hiking or 4x4 trip through Faia Brava
- Half day Vulture hide experience
- 2x half day wolf safari (one dusk, one dawn)
- 5% rewilding levy

## The cost does not include

- Flights and transfers to/from the airport or train station
- Internal transfers from Castelo Rodrigo to Rio de Onor
- Dinners at Casa da Portela (self contained house, but there is a restaurant at Rio de Onor)



# OUR RESPONSIBILITY

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As a result of rural depopulation and associated land abandonment across much of the Mediterranean, grazing livestock numbers have plummeted, leading to a very significant **increase of landscapes without any form of grazing**. As a result, many landscapes are now covered by young, often monotonous forest or dense scrub.

By bringing back grazing – this time not with livestock but with (semi-) wild herbivores such as wild horses and Tauros – Rewilding Europe and its local partners can significantly reduce the risk of fire in the Greater Coa Valley rewilding area. Reintroducing such herbivores will also **improve conditions for populations of roe deer and Iberian ibex**. Natural grazing by these species leads to the creation of more diverse mosaic landscapes, with open spaces that act as effective firebreaks.

## Supporting local enterprises

Through financial loans and expert business advice, Rewilding Europe Capital (REC) is helping a growing number of local entrepreneurs create rewilding-focused enterprises across our operational areas. Star Camp, Casa da Cisterna, our guide Fernando Romao from Wildlife Portugal and Fly Camp are all pioneering nature-based tourism models which are helping to reinforce the rewilding agenda here. Rewilding Europe promotes these enterprises through the increasingly popular European Safari Company.

**Read more about our work in the Greater Coa Valley [here](#)**



# WHAT TO BRING

We recommend you to dress in layers.

## CHECKLIST

- Hiking shoes
- Sun hat
- Water bottle
- day pack
- Long pants
- Hat and gloves
- Jacket
- Raincoat or poncho
- Sun protection cream
- Non-smelling mosquito/tick repellent and camp shoes (sandals)
- Binoculars
- Personal toiletries/medicines and ...
- a **sense of adventure!**

