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## Places and patrimony of the region

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### **ABOUT**

The human occupation of the region dates back to Neolithic times and there are still some well-conserved remains of this ancient period in human history.

Around six kilometres away from the village of Soajo you can visit some important examples at the Núcleo Megalítico do Mezio (Mezio Megalithic Area).

If you walk through the mountains you will come upon an unusual characteristic of this area, of ethnological and patrimonial interest: the Brandas (constructions used by herdsmen as summer shelters).

In Ermelo, a semi-abandoned but nonetheless idyllic village in the surrounding area overlooking a curve in the River Lima and full of orange trees, you will find what remains of the monastery of Santa Maria do Ermelo, built by Cistercian monks in the twelfth century.

The impressive Santuário de Nossa Senhora da Peneda is less than an hour's drive away.

On the way you will find a number of Brandas, spectacular mountain viewpoints and formations of enormous blocks of granite resembling giant Pharaonic sculptures.

From time to time you will be discreetly observed by the large dark eyes of the Barrosã cows that graze by the roadside.

Around two kilometres from the border with Galicia lies the beautiful village of Lindoso, with its granite houses and an old castle built by D. Afonso III at the top.

The nearby Alto do Lindoso dam blocks the waters of the River Lima for electricity production. The enormous height and size of this dam make it an impressive work of engineering.

### **Other information**

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