



CAPTAINS AND SAILORS

Rabelo boats are a symbol of the strength and sacrifice of the men of the Douro at a time when navigating the river was a feat of bravery. Remember, the river Douro as we know it today is the result of the construction of dams, a million miles from the river of old, with its many secos (silty stretches) and galeiras (rapids with protruding rocks and a jagged bottom).

Steering a rabelo boat required great wisdom, courage and experience.

Replica apêgadas (command platform)

Wood

The command platform or captain's bridge. Captains stood on these raised structures when skippering the rabelo boats, enabling them to see the river ahead, over their cargo of casks.

Author: Socrenaval (Vila Nova de Gaia)

Replica espadela

Wood

Long oar used as a rudder in rabelo boats and rabões.

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