



## THE JOURNEY UPSTREAM

The return journey was highly dependent on environmental factors. When travelling upstream, the wind was key. Rabelo boats hoisted their large sails to harness the force of the wind when travelling upstream. However, on still days, the boats were towed from the riverside, either by men or teams of oxen led by the boieros, or oxherds. On the return leg, the vessels were loaded with different goods, in particular fish – barrels of sardines – and salt, as well as other goods for sale to the population of inland Douro.

Horn  
Tinplate

Instrument used to announce the arrival of the rabelo boat and, often, to attract the attention of men or oxherds who would help tow the boat using teams of oxen.

Author: Rui Santos (Vila Real)

Towing mechanism  
Rope, wood and metal structure

Mechanism with pulleys and counterweights, designed to allow you to experience towing the boat, testing the traction force required.

Author: Nuno Costa (Porto)