



## DAILY LIFE ON A RABELO BOAT

Rabelo boats, the traditional vessels of the river Douro, were mainly used to transport casks of wine from the Douro wine region to the warehouses of Vila Nova de Gaia for ageing, a journey that began in Régua and lasted around three days.

The crew consisted of the captain, the master, the sailors and the ship's boy. At the time, they lived their entire lives aboard, toiling from sunrise to sunset on the exhausting and dangerous task of sailing, before mooring on small beaches at the side of the river to sleep, rest and eat.

### Porto Manso

A novel that describes the arrival of the railway in the Douro and the socioeconomic consequences of this progress on the village of Porto Manso, with a focus on the work of the captains and sailors who transported Port wine on rabelo boats.

Author: Alves Redol, 1946

### Galician beret and traditional neckerchief

Textile

Accessories usually worn the captains, boatmen and sailors. The film *Barcos Rabelos*, dating from 1960, shows these items in use.

### 150 litre casks

Oak and metal

Vessels for storing and transporting wine.

### Picnic Basket

Wicker, brass, candle yarn

Oval basket with relatively high sides, with a lid decorated with brass studs and a central handle. The lid is secured by a bolt that passes through loops. This basket was used to carry lunch.

In the 1960 film *Barcos Rabelos*, you can see this basket in use.

### Bowls and forks

Ceramic, metal

Receptacles and cutlery used for eating and drinking.

### Calabash (bottle gourd)

Gourd (of the *Lagenaria* genus)

As well as being eaten, calabashes like this one (from the Arabic, *kara bassasa*, meaning "lustrous gourd"), were traditionally used to transport liquids.