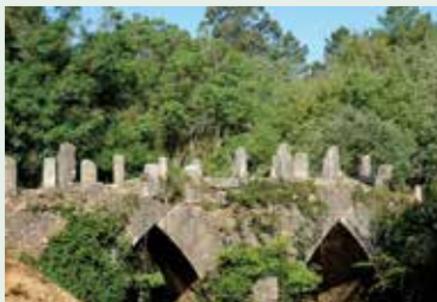




❖ **Alternative route 2.9 km -v- 3.0 km.** offers a delightful riverside path in dry weather (low-lying and floods in wet weather). Keep s/o into Rua Ponte da Vala alongside disused canal and factory (left). The asphalt gives way onto a path up past *Tágusgás* depot and down to the majestic **rio Nabão [1.9 km]** (from ponte velha). Continue alongside river passing weir and canal entrance (disused) past series of water wells to join the main route on wide earth track **[0.8 km]**. Turn <left to bridge **[0.2 km]** :



**2.9 km Ponte de Peniche.** Medieval bridge over tributary of rio Nabão.

The route now continue on a delightful earth track through pine and eucalyptus forest under the motorway IC-9 **[0.3 km]** to pick up the path again down to the rio Nabão where we turn right> along the river bank past a weir before turning up right> onto a steep path that cuts its way through the rock under power lines to take a track to the asphalt road and s/o to new path **[3.1 km]**. *[The alt. road route (right) via Casais has been re-waymarked. The village has a pilgrim bar and plans to open an albergue in future years]*. For new route continues s/o over road onto earth track through scrubland following old red / white GR signs. The track continues down s/o right ½ km and imm. s/o left up into woodland that winds its way back to the road in **Soianda [2.1 km]** with popular café!

**5.5 km Soianda Café Balrôa** (photo>) Continue s/o over stream into crossroad village of **Calvinos**.

**2.7 km Calvinos Café Cabeleira & mini-mercado** (the last opportunity to buy refreshments before reaching *Alvaiãzere*). Turn <left (direction Chão das Eiras) to join the N-110 for a short stretch to the bridge in Ponte de Ceras.

**3.2 km Ponte de Ceras.** Do not cross the main bridge but take the side road *rua lagar do Boucha* (s/o right) to cross Ribeira do Chão das Eiras on the *Estrada Romana*. The road now turns right> uphill along *rua das Azenhas* before turning up **[!]** sharp <left **[0.6 km]**. *[Note: the track continues s/o and winds it way into Areias with café (albergue planned) to rejoin the main route at Tojal crossroads]*. The steep track winds its way up a delightful forest path to country lane in **Portela [1.0 km] de Vila Verde [F]** with fine views of the surrounding countryside. The route maintains the high ridge and is well waymarked as it crisscrosses a maze of small country lanes through **Casal do Sobreiro** and **Daporta** to **sign Vila Verde [3.6 km]** and short detour +300m to new albergue. *[Café Saavedra (on N-110)]*.

**5.2 km Vila Verde sign. Alb. Heart Way priv.[8÷2]** €-donativo + *Menú comida casera* Liede © 00316 2049 7575 (note Dutch code) *rua N.S da luz* N° 342 Areias. *Yoga, meditation and massage available*. Continue on *Estrada da Porta* left into *rua do Casal dos Grilos* and onto forest path through mixed woodland where waymarks maintain the contour to option **[1.7 km]**. *[For original direct route avoiding N-110 keep s/o up past water tower (left – high point 305m) and down past specimen cork trees to Tojal crossroads [1.8 km]*. For new waymarked route veer left down to chapel and join the N-110 **[!]** to Tojal crossroads

**3.5 km Tojal cruce. Café Rst. P. Tojal Douro** +200m €30 © 925 374 578.

**Alt. route via Ramalhal 5.3 km -v- 4.1 km:** Continue along busy N-110 [!] to *Café Rst. CR. Encontro* [1.6 km]. Batista ☎ 913 234 298 rooms €20-35. Turn left off N-110 to *Café Rst. Grelhados* [0.4 km]. This route continues for [1.5 km] onto GR-35 and right at crossing [0.7 km] onto PR-6 into woodland and right over stream [0.6 km] to rejoin waymarked route at sign for Outeirinho [0.5 km].

[Note: At Tojal Carlos Pinheiro can arrange pick-up direct to Albergue Pinheiro (contact details below). Waymarked route s/o via N-348 signposted Alvaiázere Sul. We now have a dull stretch of road to Casa Torre at **Cortiça**.

[Detour 2.6 km + 1.2 km to rejoin route in Outeirinho. **Alb. Amigos Priv.**[12÷1] €10 in dorm +tipi. free pick-up ☎ Paul 236 656 374 N-356 + *menú* & *swimpool*. S/o in Cortiça take second left 1.7 km onto track and left on N-356 1.0].

**3.3 km Cruce Cortiça** welcoming and newly refurbished **Alb. Quinta Cortiça Priv.**[14÷2] €20 incl. ☎ *María* 926 923 994 with excellent facilities (see photo). Turn right at crossroads and left signposted Outeirinho (800m) onto a cobbled lanes through the hamlets of Outeirinho & Feteiras. S/o up into south suburbs of Alvaiázere at the 'top end' of town along *rua do Almagre*. Here a new bypass has cut off the original access road into town. [However, you can scramble down the bank onto the roundabout and save a long loop down to the N-348 and up again to this point!]. Official waymarks now direct down to the N-348 and up again to the roundabout. Continue via the wide *Rua 15 de Maio*, 14 past *pensão residencial O Brás* €20-35 ☎ 236 655 405 m: 966 495 337 + *menú* €10 into the town centre:



**6.8 km Alvaiázere Centro Albergaria Pinheiro** €11.50 ☎ 915 440 196 / 925 850 756 (free pick-up from Tojal) where Carlos and his family welcome pilgrims to their home on the main square and apply a pilgrim stamp with great aplomb and may issue a nip of port on arrival and D<sup>a</sup> Irene has a useful launderette below! Several pleasant *café*s and shops in this central area *Loja dos Frangos* (chicken shop! & takeaway) 200m. *Café Quintinha (Tita)* *rua D. Sancho* gets the evening sun (popular with pilgrims). **Bombeiros Voluntários** ☎ 236 650 510 may lodge pilgrims ½ km further out of town in *Rua dos Bombeiros Voluntários* just below the municipal gardens *jardim municipal*. The town has a population of 8,000 and the name Alvaiázere (*pron: Al-Vy-Ah-za*) comes from the Arabic *Al-Baiáz* 'land of the Falconer' and is linked with the Knights Templar.

