



Bridge of Mem Guterres

The Bridge of Mem Guterres (or Bridge of Esperança), in the municipality of Póvoa de Lanhoso, is a striking presence in the region's landscape, mainly due to its unique, oversized arch.

It is built across a narrow but rocky section of the upper reaches of the river Ave.

The builders of the Bridge of Mem Guterres raised it as high as they could, so as to keep it safe from the rushing currents and floods.

Although the mentor, or mentors, of such a work are unknown, and although its name evokes a Portuguese nobleman from the 8th and 9th centuries, the Bridge of Mem Guterres was most likely built to serve the local and regional powers.

The locals dubbed it “ Domingos Terres”, appropriating and modifying the nobleman's foreign and add-sounding name.

The Bridge was used by people from Braga, who journeyed to the lands of Barroso and Trás-os-Montes, as well as pilgrims seeking relief and comfort in the sanctuaries of Our Lady of Porto de Ave (Póvoa de Lanhoso) and Our Lady of Abadia (Amares).