



YUNA MAGAZINE
EDITION TWO

— NEWS FROM THE HILL

What's new and what's next

It's been a year, here's what changed

There's a good chance you're reading this just after your first night at Yuna. Coffee in hand, the birds already busy in the garden, this magazine open on the table. Before anything else, put on our Yuna playlist on Spotify, take a slow sip, and settle in.

This isn't an edition trying to convince you of anything. It's a letter to people who already know the place. We simply wanted to share what's been happening on the hill, and a few of the things we're excited to bring to life next.

There's an outdoor kitchen taking shape, a wooden terrace behind Yuna One, and a sauna we keep sketching at the high-est point of the land, where the view is at its best.

Then there's the search for Yuna Cabin, which, true to form, hasn't gone to plan. None of it is rushed. Good things take time, and time is rather the point here.

The hill feels more alive each season, and a lot of that is thanks to the people who've stayed here.



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— NEW AT YUNA TWO

The bath under the olive tree



Guests who've stayed at both houses know they each have their own character. Yuna One has the pool, made for a refreshing dip and a bit of play. Yuna Two offers something quieter: an outdoor bath in the garden, beneath the olive tree.

It's a Dutch-designed Gardentub, built from durable materials and made to stay outside year-round. Fill it with warm or cold water, depending on your mood.

After a day at the beach or in the mountains, you can immerse yourself in warm water beneath the Portuguese sun, or take a cold plunge to cool off. Either way, it feels like a private spa in nature: peaceful, quiet, and surrounded by birdsong.

It's a lovely choice for families, too. The water depth is easy to control, making it a safe, shallow bath for children to splash in. And let's be honest: most kids love the idea of taking a bath outdoors.

There's one small detail we're quietly proud of. We connected the tub to our garden irrigation, so nothing goes to waste. After a soak, the water is reused to feed the grasses and perennials. It's exactly how we like to live here: comfortable, thoughtful, and in balance with the land.



Warm water under an open sky. Meet the Gardentub at Yuna Two.



— ON THE DRAWING BOARD

What we're planning to create next

An outdoor kitchen

Behind Yuna One is a spot we keep picturing finished: a wooden terrace with a proper outdoor kitchen, where cooking becomes part of the evening rather than a reason to step back indoors. The terrace still has to be built, but we can already see it clearly.

Making a fresh salad while the grill does its thing. A glass of wine within reach, dinner drifting later and later as the light softens.

It's the part of the house we found ourselves wishing for most—and the one we're most looking forward to sharing with you.

A sauna at the very top

The day we first walked this land, we learned something simple: the further up the hill you go, the better the view.

So we keep coming back to the idea of a small sauna at the very top. First, we'll prepare the ground and lay a solid base, then plant around it so it settles into the hillside rather than sitting on top of it.

The reward is easy to picture: warm wood, a wide window, and the entire coastline laid out before you. Step out after the heat, cool down in the open air, and watch the Atlantic turn gold as the sun sets.



We've spent enough cold mornings in the ocean to know exactly what's missing: a sauna to come home to



— THE SEARCH FOR LAND

Finding the land that became Yuna



Before there was a house, a pool, or a single guest, there was an empty hillside and a long list of questions. This is how we found the land that became Yuna, and why we didn't do it alone.

When we started looking for land in Portugal, we didn't really know where to begin. The idea was clear: nature, space, and a view that makes you pause. The moment you start searching for building land, reality arrives quickly. Every listing looks different, every plot comes with its own story, and before long you're standing in a field full of questions you didn't know you'd have. The hardest one was the simplest. A lovely piece of land doesn't automatically mean you can build on it. "Buildable" isn't a feeling, it's a legal reality, and in Portugal what you'd like to build and what you're allowed to build can be two very different things. Add a market we couldn't read, leaving us wondering: are we offering too much, or not enough? And the excitement started to feel like risk.

Someone who knew the ground

So we stopped guessing. We found 'Find Land Portugal', a local service that helps buyers find land and checks the legal and technical side before you commit. From our first conversation with Diogo, it felt different. He didn't talk about how a plot looked.



It didn't take the excitement away. It made the whole thing calmer, because we finally stopped guessing.

He helped us see land the way you have to when you actually intend to build on it: asking the right questions and being honest about what was realistic. The land we chose became the foundation for everything that followed: the permits, the design, the long build, and eventually Yuna One and Yuna Two.

Why we're telling you this

Since finishing Yuna, a lot of people have come to us with the same questions we once had. The honest answer is that we didn't figure it all out alone, and that made the difference between a confusing beginning and a clear one. Buying land in Portugal can be one of the best things you ever do, but enthusiasm on its own isn't enough. You need clarity, and you need to know what's actually possible.

Curious about Find Land Portugal?

We're happy to introduce you, just send us a message. T: +31644442155 Mention Yuna for 10% off.

— THE SEARCH CONTINUES

Yuna Cabin: The search is on

Yuna One and Two are finished, which still feels a little unreal to write. You'd think this is the moment to sit back, look around, and say: we did it. And we are proud. But somewhere during that first year, as the reviews came in and the name Yuna started to stick, a quieter feeling crept in underneath the gratitude: curiosity. Once you've built something like this and watched it grow into more. One question kept returning: could we do it again?

So we're looking again. The number one thing we search for hasn't changed since the very beginning: the view. It just has to feel wide and open, the kind that gives you space in your head. Nature, but not too far. Calm, but still connected. We've started calling this next dream 'Yuna Cabin'.

First, a house

It began in April '26, with a house. An enormous garden, valley views that stopped you in your tracks and a natural spring at the entrance. After the first visit we were convinced, this could be it. It carried the charm of an old granite Minho house, the kind that something new can never quite replicate. But every old building hides an unknown, and that's where our knowledge runs out and our contractor's begins. So we asked him to give his honest opinion. He loved the place, and then the numbers came: new kitchens, floors, bathrooms, electrics, windows.

The renovation would cost about as much as building a new house, and a new build earns the A energy rating a rental permit may one day need. Hard to hear, but we were glad we asked. We crossed it off and moved on.

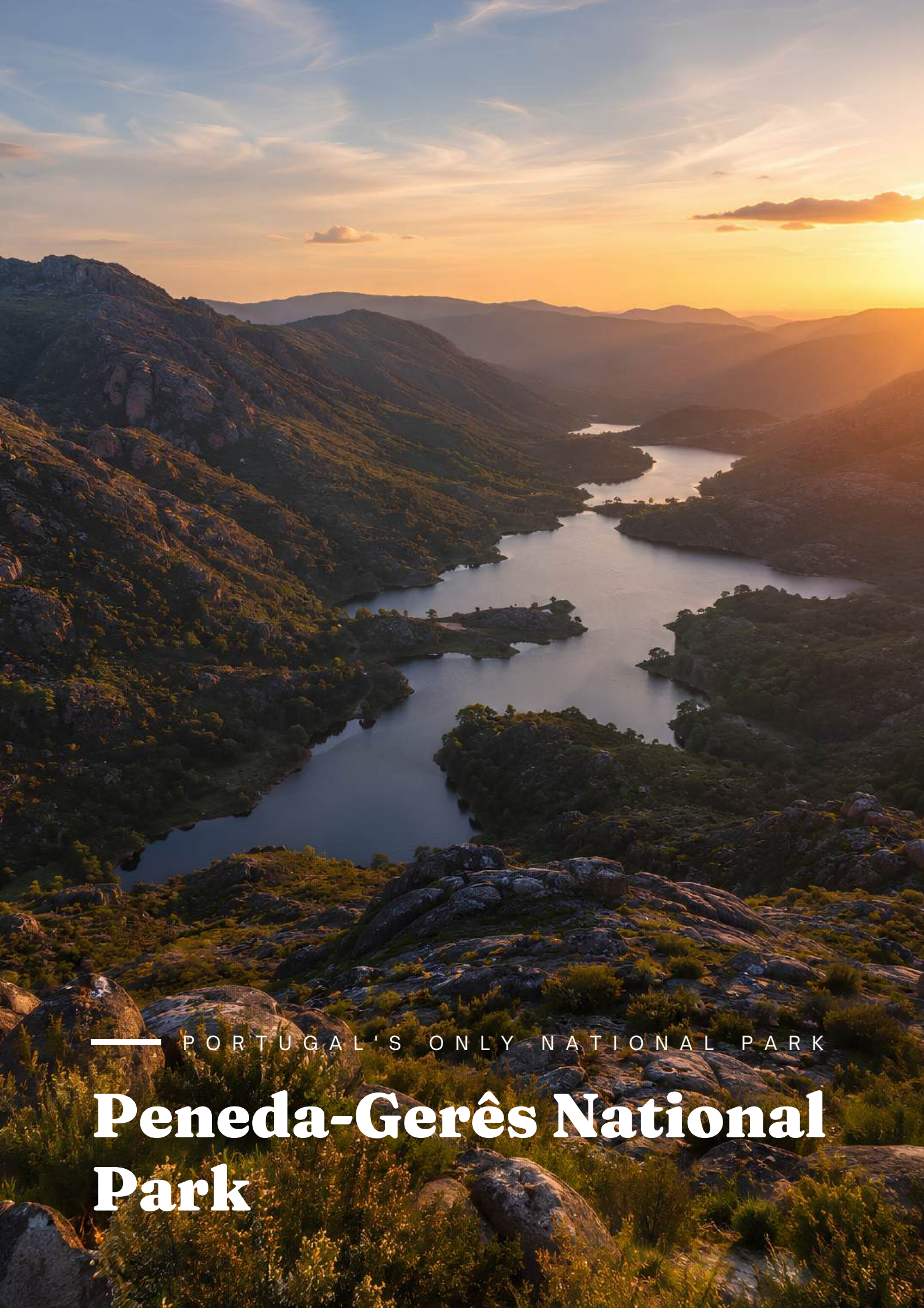
Then, the land

With Diogo from Find Land Portugal we set aside a full day to visit ten plots between Yuna and Ponte de Lima. We look at land differently now: access roads wide enough for larger vehicles, electricity nearby, distance from forest because of fire risk. We've learned to think practically before we let ourselves fall in love. And then we found one that had everything: quiet, close to facilities, mountain views, vineyards, a small stream running through it, and very old olive trees. We both knew at once: this is ours.

A bumpy ride, again

Then Diogo delivered the news: the slope makes it complicated. Building on uneven ground isn't just a technical challenge, it's an expensive one, retaining walls to hold the hillside back, deeper footings and reinforcement instead of a simple slab, drainage that in rainy Northern Portugal is never optional. We've been here before. When we started Yuna we had our share of hurdles, but patience is what built this place, and it'll build the next one too. So we move on with fresh energy.





— PORTUGAL'S ONLY NATIONAL PARK

Peneda-Gerês National Park

A day in the mountains

If you want one day away from the coast, make it Gerês. It's a big, wild landscape of granite ridges, oak forest and rivers, Portugal's only national park, and the kind of place where you might share the trail with the half-wild horses that roam here.

E-MTB

There's more than one way to take it in. Rent an E-MTB (Electric mountain-bike), the extra push gets you further into the hills and up to the views without spending the whole day in your legs. (E-MTB Rental: Peneda Gerês Adventure Center)

Hot springs

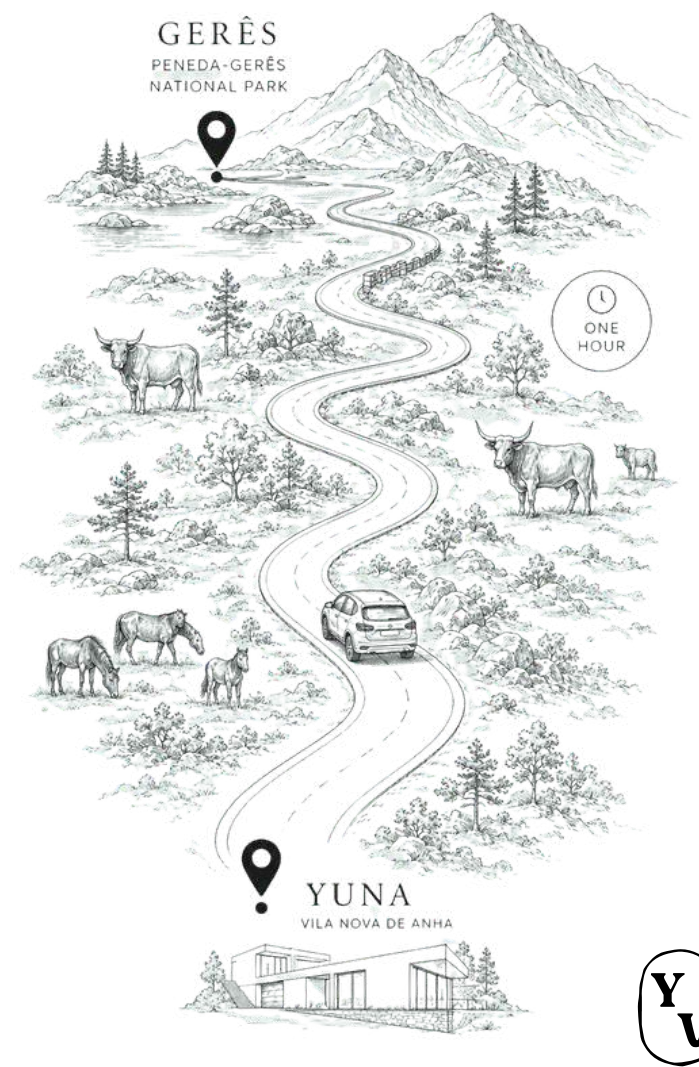
Gerês is also known for its natural thermal hot springs, a restorative stop for generations, and a welcome one if your legs have had enough of the mountains. Check out Caldaria de Lobios (just over the border in Spain) a free natural hot spring with a waterfall worth the detour.

Prefer to go on foot?

Start early in the morning at the Baloço de Mezio, where an easy trail and the famous viewpoint swing give you the landscape in one wide sweep. A gentle way in before the bigger climbs. Wherever you wander, the water is the reward. Hidden waterfalls and natural pools turn up at the end of many trails, perfect for cooling off after a warm walk.

O Abocanhado

When it's time for lunch, O Abocanhado is the one to book: a restaurant built into the hillside with a genuinely jaw-dropping view over the mountains. Tip: call ahead to book. The outdoor tables have the best view.



Riding the hills around Viana

Viana is one of those rare places where the ocean and the mountains sit side by side, and from Yuna, the trails start almost at the door. The region is laced with dozens of routes, most between 40 and 60 kilometres: technical singletrack, climbs through pine forest, fast descents with the sea below you, and quiet valley trails along the rivers.

You don't have to be race-fit

An e-mountain bike turns the long climbs into the best part of the day, and there are good rental shops in Viana if you'd rather travel light. Most hand you a little booklet of routes when you pick up your bike, and the majority head up into the mountains at Santa Luzia.

Prefer company?

Local guides run tours, including shuttle-assisted days where you're driven up and ride back down. Not every ride has to climb, either. Two of our favourites are flat and easy: follow the coast north to Moledo.

Or trace the river inland to Ponte de Lima and back along the Ecovia. Both are gentle, and both are a joy.

It helps that Viana is genuinely well set up for cycling, more so than most of Portugal. Come the weekend, the routes fill with road cyclists and mountain bikers alike.

Bike Park Ponte de Lima

Thirty minutes away, in the Serra d'Arga between Estorãos and Cabação, this park covers 360 hectares of forest from 138 to 650 metres. Ten trails from 2.8 to 4 km, every discipline from cross-country to downhill, with a shuttle running to the top throughout the day.

Autumn is the sweet spot

Cool mornings, mild afternoons, greener landscapes, waterfalls flowing again after the dry summer, and far quieter trails.

After the ride, Viana's old centre is waiting with fresh fish and a glass of vinho verde.



The wind that runs the summer



Of all the reasons we ended up here, the wind is the one we still can't quite get over. From May to September the Nortada turns up almost every afternoon, a steady thermal north-westerly that cools the coast and fills a kite beautifully. It holds right through until the sun drops behind the water. One thing worth knowing: it reads stronger than it looks. If the forecast shows 10 knots, expect it to feel more like 20 by mid-afternoon, and on the big days 20 can roar up to 35 or 40. On those days, reach for your smallest kite.

Where to kite? Cabedelo!

The heart of it, and the easiest place to start. A wide beach backed by forest, with clean space to launch and two piers that flatten the water between them. Good kite schools on the sand make it the natural choice for beginners. Busy, but with an energy that fits.

Want to know the real wind status?

Check the live wind meter and camera on the pier. This gives you a realistic picture of what the wind is doing right now.



Rodanho

Rodanho sits just next door. Expect stronger wind, fewer people, and waves to play with once you're comfortable. Beautiful setting of dunes and pines, reached by a wooden path through a small reserve. No facilities, so bring what you need.

Esposende

Half an hour south, where the Cávado meets the Atlantic. Calm and forgiving for beginners, while the flat water suits freestyle riders too. Launch from the town or take a boat transfer with a local school, busy in peak season, and transfers cost extra.

Moledo

Twenty minutes north near the Spanish border, and the wild one. Rugged conditions and proper waves beneath a little fortress on the sand. Launch from the right to stay clear of the rocks, and unusually for the area it also works in winter on SSW winds.

When the session's done

Wind makes you hungry. On Cabedelo, the Duotone Pro Center is our go-to: a rooftop with views over the whole coastline, fresh salads and pokebowls. Down on the sand, 'North' keeps things easy with food, drinks and a DJ as the night falls.



Meet the Nortada

How the Nortada works

If you've spent a summer afternoon here, you've felt it: the breeze that builds out of nowhere around lunchtime and carries the whole coast through to sunset. That's the Nortada, and it's the engine behind everything that happens on the water in Viana.

Where it comes from

It's a thermal wind, made by a simple difference in temperature. Under the summer sun the land heats up fast while the Atlantic stays cool. The warm air over the land rises, leaving a gap, and the cooler ocean air rushes in to fill it.

The spin of the earth bends that incoming air to the right, so it arrives from the northwest, steady, dependable, and almost on schedule.

The hills and valleys around Viana funnel it further, which is part of why it hits harder here than the forecast suggests.

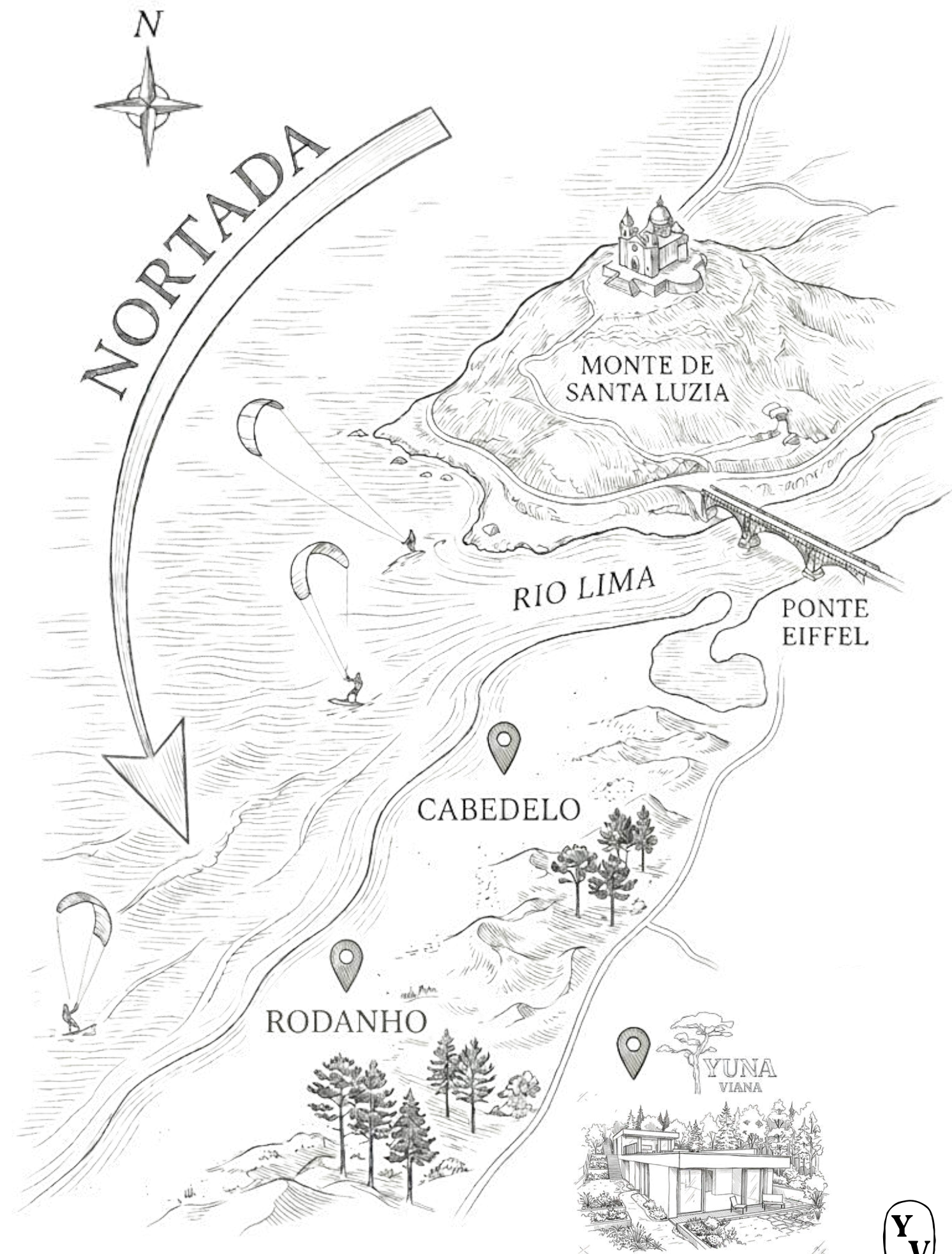
It does more than power kites, too. As it stirs the ocean it pulls cool, nutrient-rich water up from the deep, feeding the sea life along the coast. A good wind in every sense.

Good to know before you go

- Most days you'll be kiting on a 6 or an 8. As the wind eases toward the end of the day, some riders size up to a 10 to squeeze out the last session before sunset.
- It reads light, rides strong. A forecast of 10 knots often feels like 20 by mid-afternoon, and the biggest days climb to 35–40. When in doubt, ride smaller.
- See the live wind. The live wind meter on the pier at vianalocals.com shows you exactly what's happening right now.
- Cabedelo has lifeguards on duty, reassuring whether you're learning or just pushing your limits.
- The same cool Atlantic that makes the wind also makes the water fresh. A wetsuit is worth it, even in high summer.

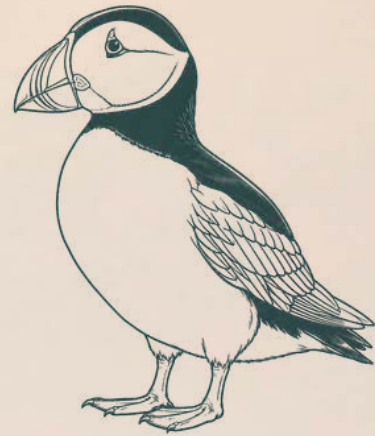
Make a day of it

Mornings are usually calm, perfect for a surf or a swim. The wind builds through the early afternoon and peaks late in the day. If someone in your group doesn't kite, the schools at Cabedelo also run surf and SUP lessons, so the whole group can get on the water.



— BIRDS & DRIFTWOOD

A year on the Atlantic coast



The clowns of the sea

Atlantic puffins spend around eight months a year far out on the open ocean, sometimes drifting as far as Greenland. Yet each spring they find their way back to the same cliff, the same burrow, the same partner. This past winter, that journey turned deadly: with the jet stream stuck low, storm after storm made it impossible to feed, and more than 400 dead puffins washed up along the Portuguese coast alone.

We're usually at Yuna in the quieter seasons, spring, autumn and winter, when the beaches empty out and the coast feels like it belongs to you. This past year showed us both of its faces.

October began beautifully. Warm days, and the kind of empty beaches you only find out of season. Coffee outside in the morning, a swim in the afternoon, whole stretches of sand to ourselves. It's our favourite version of this place: all the light of summer, none of the crowds. And then the sky changed. High above the Atlantic, the jet stream slipped unusually far south, and with high pressure parked over Scandinavia, one storm after another was pushed down onto Iberia instead of tracking north. What followed was one of the wildest winters Portugal has seen in years, the whole country, not just the north. In the centre, in places, the trees snapped like matchsticks. One day, the wind reached nearly 75 knots, hurricane force, straight in off the sea. You could watch the foam streak across the water in long white lines, and the waves rolled in at twelve, fourteen metres. Our house stood up to all of it.

We weren't alone in it either: in late January, storm Kristin became the heaviest ever recorded in Portugal, with a gust of 208.8 km/h at Soure. For weeks our phones kept buzzing with alerts to stay away from the coast.

So we walked, as we always do, every day along the beach, in the rain or between showers. Some mornings we found puffins washed up, those little clowns of the sea, blown far off course and too worn out to feed.

The routine here is simple: you call the GNR, and someone comes to carry the bird to a shelter. Hundreds were counted along the coast that winter, part of a much wider Atlantic event that reached all the way to France and Britain.

The coast itself took a beating. The seawall at Moledo was left on the edge of collapse, the dunes at Rodanho lost ground, and an astonishing amount of plastic washed in, so we picked it up, day after day. We gathered driftwood too. Our garage is full of it now: every weathered beam you see in the Yuna garden came off the beach. They only look new.

What a contrast with the calm of spring and the long ease of summer. These are extremes you don't meet in the Netherlands, and living here means working with them: drainage that copes, good insulation against the damp, a constant battle with mould. Everything gets wet, and everything stays wet.

But we wouldn't trade it. You don't tame a coast like this. You just learn to live alongside it, and somehow feel more at home for it.



— YUM YUM

Our best food tips

After a day in the wind, the water, or the hills, the last thing you want is to think too hard about dinner.

So here's our little black book: the places we send friends to and keep going back to ourselves. Small, family-run, mostly low-key, and all worth the visit. Bom apetite!

O Coberto



O Coberto is an open kitchen. You eat whatever Ana is cooking, whatever the season brought her.

O Cabecudo



A little gem, and well worth seeking out.

Segredos do Mar



A really good fish restaurant in Castelo de Neiva

Cerqueira's in Rio



On the banks of the river Lima. Home to the best francesinha in Viana.

Beira Rio



A lovely, easy-going spot, also right on the Lima.

Maria Petisca



Authentic Portuguese cooking. Famous for their perfectly cooked Black Angus steak.

Maria Moledo



A genuinely excellent kitchen, with warm, friendly service.

Magma Caffe



A daily special with coffee, wine & food for €10. Walk from the Rodanho forest to Amorosa for your daily nature sniffing.

Maria de Perre



Casa de Pasto Maria de Perre is a simple Portuguese restaurant with good prices and served in generous portions.

YUNA MAGAZINE EDITION TWO



**Slow down on the hill above Viana.
Two homes made for nature, comfort and
outdoor living, with the ocean just below.**



Yunaviana.com



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